

1910

## Series B, Roll 3: 71-138

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**CAPE GIRARDEAU**



St Vincent College  
 Caprenguard No  
 Apr 31, 1873

Dear Father

I take the pleasure of  
 writing you these few lines to let you  
 know that I am well and I hope  
 you are well also. I started from St  
 Louis thirty first of April away  
 from home on the City of Chester at  
 seven o'clock but should I met  
 on the boat but father & lander  
 from St Vincent Church and then  
 I was alright I was very sick on  
 the boat we landed at Caprenguard  
 at four o'clock Tuesday evening  
 we was shipwreck for about four  
 hours we had to lay up on account  
 of the big storm I was very sorry  
 that I could not at the Misses  
 Hannons before I went away the  
 first warke I got here was helping  
 to roll a house they was six of us

and when that warke was done  
father Moore sent me at hauling  
brick and rock with a mule and  
cart and when that was done he  
put me in the refectory to work  
I am now getting Ten dollars a month  
and board and washing and laundry  
that's better <sup>than</sup> that to be in St Louis work  
about I am in very good health and  
hope you the same and all those  
when you write I hope you will let  
me know about the matters they are  
now seventy five boys here at school  
and about seven priests and brothers  
and I they have got a fine band  
here I send my best respect to you  
and Maa and Maurice and the  
girls and Mike and <sup>the</sup> Lyons and  
So excuse me for not writing  
good write as soon as you can  
as your affectionate son

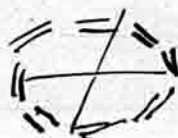
Thomas  
Harty



tell me if there was any one from  
the press farm here inquiring for  
me. I would like to know & I wish  
you would send me a paper here from  
the office once a week. Democrat  
paper tell Max and the Harmons  
to write to me and Dan Lyons also

St Vincent's College  
Cape Girardeau Mo<sup>5</sup>  
May 28<sup>th</sup> 73. 33

Most Rev Father



Circumstances

oblige me to Crave a dispensation  
from my vows. I have to aid  
in the support of my mother and  
am also obliged to take full care  
of an infirm sister, one who I  
may say educated me until  
I had two years Theology read.  
Hoping Dear Father you will  
grant my request immediately  
and without further ado, I remain  
Yours in Christ  
Rev. John J. V. Talley.



St Vincents College  
Cape Girardeau Mo.  
May 30<sup>th</sup> 1873.

Very Rev Father, The enclosed  
letter from my sister will show  
you that I am released from  
an obligation which caused me  
much pain. I can now remain  
in the Congregation thank God  
which is the only thing I desire on  
this earth. I suppose my first  
letter arrived a few days ago,  
but if so, I trust you have  
not as yet taken any step in  
my regard. Pray for me dear  
Father that I may live and  
die a worthy son of St Vincent.  
Your obed<sup>t</sup> Child John F. V. Valley C<sup>m</sup>.

Patente à M. Jean Hickey - Cap Grandeau  
Louis Meyer - Brooklyn

Collège Saint Vincent Cape Girardeau

23 octobre 1877.

reçu  
11 Dec 1877

Monsieur et très cher Confrère  
La grace de St. S. soit avec vous pour jamais!

Je me trouve ici pour quelques jours  
où j'ai pris part dans la retraite de  
la Communauté, et je viens vous prier de  
demander à Notre Très Honoré Père la  
patente de Supérieur de cette maison  
pour M. Jean Hickey que j'ai appointé  
pour cette charge il y a deux ans, sujet à  
l'approbation du G. H. P. Je ne l'ai pas  
demandé de suite par ce que je voulais  
voir auparavant comment il réussirait;  
je vois maintenant qu'il fait assez bien,  
c'est pour ça que je m'empresse de deman-  
der sa patente pour être en règle.

Je viens aussi la demander pour M. Louis  
Meyer que j'ai appointé pour la maison  
de Brooklyn le mois d'août dernier,  
sa solidité de caractère, et son bon jugement



me donnent à croire qu'il réussira.

J'attend encore une réponse pour ce qui regarde le cas de M. Hannigan qui a écrit à M. le Supérieur Général en le priant d'avoir pitié de lui encore une fois, c'est pour cela que j'ai retenu la patente de demission qu'avait été envoyée pour lui. Je n'ai plus entendu aucune plainte de lui.

M. Maller n'est pas encore venu à l'ouest, il est encore au Maryland, mais il doit venir par ici bientôt, après qu'il aura arrangé les choses la bas qui lui ont donné beaucoup à faire et à penser. Il faut espérer que tout sera réglé pour le mieux avec l'aide de Dieu. — Je pense de retourner bientôt à Germantown.

Je me recommande à vos prières, et je suis dans l'amour de Notre Seigneur etc.  
Votre tout dévoué confr.

L. Rolando,  
i. p. d. l. on.

De St. Louis, 27 8bre 1777

P. S. J'ai reçu votre lettre du 3, 8bre sur  
le compte de M. Hannigan etc. La conduite  
d'icelui n'est guere connue que dans la  
maison de Brooklyn et par les Consultants,  
ainsi si on le voyait entrer au Seminaire  
on s'étonnerait, peut être, en ne sachant  
pas la cause; mais je consulterais M.  
Maller.

J. R.



St Vincent College  
Capeguards Mo  
Apr 31, 1873

Dear Father

I take the pleasure of  
writing you these few lines to let you  
know that I am well and I hope  
you are well also. I started from St  
Louis thirty first of April away  
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seven o'clock but should I met  
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hours we had to lay up on account  
of the big storm I was very sorry  
that I could not at the Misses  
Hannons before I went away the  
first week I got here was helping  
to roll a house they was six of us

and when that warke was done  
father Moore sent me at hauling  
fire and rock with a mule and  
cart and when that was done he  
put me in the refectory to worke  
I am now getting Ten dollars a month  
and board and washing and mending  
thats better <sup>than</sup> that to be in St Louis walk  
about I am in verry good health and  
hope you the same and all those  
whom you write I hope you will let  
me know about the matters they are  
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and about eleven priests and brothers  
and I they have got a fine band  
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and Ma and Maryice and the  
girls and mither and <sup>the</sup> lym and  
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Thomas  
Hardy



tell me if there was any one from  
the first farm here inquiring for  
me. I would like to know & I wish  
you would send me a paper here from  
the office once a week Democrat  
paper tell Maas and the Hanmons  
to write to me and Dan Lyons also

Expendu 12 X 6

Cape Girardeau le 23 gbre 1844

Monsieur et très cher Co-frère  
La grace de v. D. soit avec nous pour jamais

Merci pour vos deux lettres  
du 3 et 23 d'Octobre dernier. Ainsi  
donc Rome a parlé, et à je com-  
prends bien les sœurs espagnoles ont  
obtenu ce qu'elles voulaient. Il n'y  
a qu'à <sup>à</sup>obéir de cœur et d'esprit.  
Il me tarde de voir une copie du docu-  
ment officiel.

M<sup>r</sup> Demarech, il paraît, est  
nommé Evêque de Vincennes dans  
l'Etat d l'Indiana Etats Unis. Il  
gagne dans le change car le nouvel  
evêché qu'on lui donne vaut mieux  
que celui au quel il a renoncé. Et suré-  
ment il n'aura pas aidé M<sup>r</sup> Leteri à Madrid.

Les américains ne sont pas  
écrivains. En outre ils ne lisent  
pas les annales, car il ne lisent  
que très peu d'écrivains français,  
et les annales sont trop volumineuses  
pour être traduites et imprimées  
en anglais. Voilà, ce me semble,  
pourquoi ils n'écrivent pas.

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Ajouter à cela qu'il y a trop de  
misère mêlée au bien qu'ils  
font, et on ne peut pas écrire  
cela, et ceux qui savent tout, si  
on ne présente que le beau côté,  
perdent toute confiance en lisant  
les annales, ou lisant les choses in-  
complètes, et disent: voilà proba-  
blement ce qui arrive par tout.  
C'est une tâche difficile que vous  
avez à remplir en rédigeant les  
annales.

Cependant je verrai d'exister  
un peu le zèle des américains et américaines



à être plus généreux pour contri-  
buer aux orphelins.

Je vous prie de saluer tous  
nos confrères et de me croire en  
V. D. et m.

Votre tout dévoué serv.

M. J. Mallen   
J. P. Dec 21/11

H. Charles Becherer Demande  
 Démission - St Vincents College  
 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1878  
 Cape Girardeau Mo  
 June 10<sup>th</sup> 1878

Very Res & Dear Confrer  
 Gratia D.N.S.P. sit semper vobiscum

Very Res Sir

I write to you with  
 a heavy heart, and I would prefer not  
 to have to write, but duty compels me to  
 do so. After mature deliberation I have  
 come to the conclusion to apply to you,  
 Sir, for a dispensation from my Vows to  
 the Community. I deem myself justified  
 in doing so, as I see & feel that my  
 spiritual and temporal welfare depends  
 upon it. My patience is now worn out,  
 after 22 years of mental and physical  
 suffering. For the last 14 years I had  
 less physical suffering than before,  
 owing to the Southern Climate I have

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been in, though I had not a little  
Mental suffering to put up with from  
the ~~un~~kindness of my Superior.  
For the last two years they have tried  
to keep me in the North, but the cold  
weather caused me to suffer so much  
with rheumatism that they had to send  
me back to the South. If last winter  
I did not suffer martyrdom from the  
Cold in the North, it is owing to the  
kindness of good father Maller, who  
ordered them to send me South again.  
My local Superior had, through  
false and frivolous charges against me,  
so embittered the mind of the Visitor,  
that he (the Visitor) thought it his duty  
not to send me back. I had to defend  
myself before father Maller from whom  
I got justice. Some two months ago  
I committed a fault of imprudence, (and  
this is all & no more), by which I  
scandalized my Superior & another



Confess, I had made Satisfaction for  
it as far as I could and they seemed  
satisfied. Yet they reported it to the Visitor  
and exaggerated my fault and he with them  
constructed it either into actual criminal  
intercourse or deem me Capable of such  
have their unkind treatment & Conduct  
towards me. Therefore I do not wish  
to stay in the Community - under such  
Circumstances. With a mind constantly  
irritated & embittered I will not be  
able to comply with the obligations of my  
Vows. Therefore please to dispense me from  
them without delay, and I will try, to the  
best of my power, to serve God as a priest.  
I have never been a good Member of  
the Community - and in the future under  
the Circumstances I will be worse. So  
let me go in time and do not drive me  
to sin. I will then forgive & forget and  
mind myself. Hoping to receive an  
answer soon I remain your

unworthy Confess

Charles Jos. Beecher  
alias  
Becherer

76  
Petit dispensationem Nobilium propterea quod sit infir-  
ma, valetudinis et male tractatus a suis Superioribus,  
asserens, jam ab annis 14 iugum martyrii differens  
se tonhasse omnia media inutiliter tamen ut pro  
ipsis saluifacere;

Missouri College St Vincent, 18 janvier 1844.

Prov. X X VIII  
+ M. Driscoll  
M. Cap-Girardeau

Monsieur et très honoré Père,

Je crois que c'est un privilège pour tout  
confère de vous exposer les difficultés dans les  
quelles il se rencontre, et de vous faire connaître  
les désordres qui existent dans la communauté; car  
si on n'y porte remède, ils peuvent jetter l'édifice  
sur la Compagnie et l'empêcher d'obtenir la fin  
pour laquelle elle a été établie. Pour ce qui me  
regarde, j'ai pensé pendant quelque temps bien  
sérieusement à me retirer. Au mois de novembre  
1839, j'ai eu le malheur de commettre une faute grave.  
J'étais sous le coup de la boisson et quelques confrères  
de Brooklyn s'en aperçurent. Je le regrettais vivement,  
et au lieu de dissimuler ma faute, j'en parlai au provincial;  
je lui exposai le cas avec toutes ses circonstances;  
je le priais de m'imposer une pénitence et je  
m'engageais à réparer ma faute, à tout bien faire  
à changer de conduite. En apprenant cette nouvelle,  
M. Smith m'écrivit une lettre pleine d'insultes, me  
désendit de dire la messe et me laissa ainsi pendant  
huit <sup>semaines</sup> ~~jours~~. Je crois même que sans quelques confrères  
qui connaissent mes dispositions, il m'aurait chassé  
de la Compagnie. Ce n'est pas tout. Pendant les



vacances qui suivirent, il m'envoya à S. Marie de Berthville; là j'ai beaucoup travaillé pendant deux ans, mais, en butte à des tracasseries insupportables, je fus obligé de recourir au provincial. Alors il m'envoya ici comme préfet de discipline et avec la charge de m'occuper des intérêts de la maison.

Malgré cela, je regarde mon existence comme d'isolement flétrie dans la communauté; et Dieu sait si jamais un coufrire a été puni comme je l'ai été. Ce n'est pas que je veuille oublier ma faute de si tôt, mais quand même M. Smith gouvernerait encore la communauté pendant un siècle, je ne veux plus avoir aucun rapport avec lui. Il est partial dans la conduite à l'égard des coufriers; permettez-moi de vous en citer un exemple; le fait est arrivé le 12 7<sup>le</sup> 1643. Notre procureur, qui était alors adonné à la boisson, fut, ce jour-là, tellement ivre qu'il tomba sur les marches de l'escalier, en présence de quelques prêtres. Cela ne lui arrivait pas pour la première fois; le 6 7<sup>le</sup> il avait de la peine à marcher dans le corridor; il ne fut pas en état de dire la messe le jour de La Toussaint, à cause de la boisson; et depuis deux ans que je suis ici, il l'a dite fort rarement. Le supérieur local n'ignore pas ces faits

et cependant il n'impose aucune pénitence au coupable et il ne cherche pas à faire cessable le scandale. Deux jours après le 12 g<sup>bre</sup>, les provinciaux arrivèrent pour faire la visite; il apprit ces faits avec toutes leurs circonstances; prêches et frères certifièrent l'avoir vu boire. Malgré tout, M. Smith crut que cela ne tirait pas à conséquence; aucune pénitence ne fut imposée, il lui permit de dire la messe et de remplir ses devoirs comme si rien n'était arrivé. Or, je demande, où est ici l'égalité dans la manière de traiter les coupables? Comparez les deux cas et jugez vous-même. La communauté fut surprise d'une pareille conduite, le plus grand nombre en furent indignés et peu s'en fallut que quelques coupables ne demandassent la démission de leurs vœux. En fait, la charité n'est pas <sup>si rare</sup> comme dans la Compagnie; ceux qui sont nommés supérieurs n'ont pas les qualités voulues pour bien remplir cet office, et ils sont souvent cause des troubles qui existent parmi nous. Ils sont pleins d'un <sup>esprit</sup> d'envie, peu charitables et toujours portés à la partialité. Pour nous, nous sommes, à présent, comme un troupeau sans pasteurs, comme des orphelins abandonnés. Votre supérieur, M. Hickley, est rarement à la maison pendant le jour, il n'a pas d'assistant



et il ne désigne personne pour le remplacer en son absence; ce qui est fort désagréable et cause souvent des disputes. Personne ne connaît les affaires pour les quelles il sort le souvent; il est réellement prodigé. Il s'occupe fort peu des intérêts spirituels et temporels de l'établissement. Il ne connaît même pas les élèves et n'est jamais avec eux, aussi on ne le connaît, on ne parle de lui qu'en mauvaise part; et on le méprise, et pendant les vacances, on désigne l'établissement. Si parfois il visite les classes, c'est comme s'il ne les visitait pas, car il ne fait aucune impression. Le couvent, qui est à côté, est le lieu où il va le plus souvent, il y est tous les jours et quelquefois trois fois par jour. Le bruit court que la mère a été changée depuis peu d'années, parce qu'ils étaient un peu trop intimes. Il connaît beaucoup mieux le couvent que sa propre maison. C'est vraiment un scandale. Il n'est presque jamais en récréation avec la communauté, et rarement, il est avec nous au réfectoire. Lui et le procureur sont sans doute en collusion, car aussitôt qu'il rentre à la maison, ils s'enferment tous les deux dans la chambre du supérieur.



Le prêtre fait très bien son affaire; à la manière  
dont il agit avec les confrères, on dirait qu'il n'a  
ni honneur ni principes. La moindre <sup>chose</sup> qu'il voit ou  
qu'il entend est aussitôt rapportée au supérieur;  
ce qui cause beaucoup de manquements à la charité  
et met la division parmi les confrères. Si les paroles  
de M. F. sont vraies et elles le sont: omnis domus eis  
se divide non stabit; on peut croire que cette  
maison ne tardera pas à tomber. Le manque d'esprit  
de foi et de piété dans le supérieur porte déjà les  
frères. Votre établissement est en déclin; nous sommes  
méprisés par la plus grande partie du clergé du  
diocèse et le supérieur n'est pas en relations d'amitié  
avec les prêtres si ce n'est avec quelques uns. La  
raison qu'on donne c'est que M. Hickey n'est pas  
capable de remplir la position qu'il occupe.

Agani dit rarement la messe pendant la semaine  
trois fois tant au plus. La paroisse dont il est  
chargé est vraiment négligée sous plusieurs rapports.  
Il ne va à l'église que le dimanche; un prêtre est  
chargé de dire la messe chaque jour, mais il  
la dit trop matin et ceux qui voudraient l'entendre  
font la remarque <sup>que</sup> M. Hickey pourrait bien dire  
la messe plus tard, puisqu'il n'a rien à faire.  
Bien des personnes sont privées de la messe  
surtout pendant l'hiver.

La propriété est une charge pour la nation; elle nous coûte beaucoup plus de dépenses qu'elle ne rapporte. Je crois qu'on y dépense, chaque année, 4,000 dollars et je ne sais même si cela suffit.

Tels sont, Messieurs et très honore Père, les faits que j'ai cru devoir vous communiquer; chacun ici les connaît et peut les certifier comme vrais. Je ne suis pas le seul à souffrir des irrégularités qui existent dans le gouvernement de cette Province: d'autres vous écrivent sur le même sujet dans peu de jours. Le provincial connaît les principaux faits que j'ai rapportés, pourquoi ne fait-il pas cesser le scandale? C'est un mystère pour tout le monde. Si on n'y porte bientôt remède, il y aura du trouble, car c'est un outrage à l'humanité, qui une communauté doit gouverner par de tels supérieurs. Pour moi, je ne puis pas vivre sous une pareille tyrannie, et si vous ne prenez remède à ces désordres, veuillez m'envoyer votre dimission, je retournerai dans mon diocèse, car ici je ne pourrais qu'être malheureux.

Je suis etc.

B. M. Driscoll, p. m.



Cape Girardeau, Collège L. Vincent 22 Janv. 1864.  
 Monsieur et très honoré Père,

C'est pour moi un devoir de vous communiquer une grave résolution que j'ai prise et de vous en faire connaître les motifs. Ma vie dans la communauté est devenue pour moi insupportable; et afin de vous prouver qu'il en est ainsi, il est nécessaire que je remonte à une année environ, époque à laquelle commencent les difficultés qui se me trouvent. J'étais, à cette époque, au collège de Brooklyn. M. Hartnett prenait, en ce moment, la direction de la maison, mais l'harmonie n'existait pas entre lui et les confrères. Ceux qui lui étaient favorables voulaient tout faire, mais ceux qui étaient suspects de peu de sympathie étaient soumis à une vraie persécution. Ceux qui avaient le plus de zèle pour entendre les confessions ne purent plus les entendre, afin que M. Hartnett pût établir son influence sur les personnes qui ne voulaient pas de son ministère. C'est par de tels moyens et autres semblables que le nouveau Supérieur inaugura son gouvernement, pendant que sa conduite à l'égard des confrères était une pure tyrannie.

Il achetait une belle étoffe et il avait un  
 tailleur à la mode pour se faire faire des habits  
 pour lui et pour un copain de ses amis:  
 les autres. Il les envoyait au premier venu,  
 parcequ'il n'avait que des étoffes d'une  
 qualité inférieure et de peu de valeur. M.  
 Hartnett scandalisait encore la communauté par les  
 irrégularités de sa conduite; ainsi, pendant trois mois  
 lui et deux copains, de ses intimes, ne se  
 couchaient jamais avant minuit, ils passaient  
 le temps à boire dans la chambre du supérieur.  
 M. Hartnett ~~et ses amis~~ ne se levait jamais avec la  
 communauté; ils n'assistaient à la méditation que  
 le vendredi, à cause du chapitre; ce désordre  
 se continua, avec quelques interruptions, à peu près  
 toute l'année. Mais ce qui choquait particulièrement  
 les copains, c'était l'intimité qui régnait entre  
 M. Hartnett et une demoiselle qui touchait l'orgue  
 de l'église; ils passaient souvent plus de deux  
 heures ensemble, après que la communauté s'était  
 couchée. On les a vus souvent ensemble au  
 parloir du collège, les portes fermées, depuis  
 6 h du matin jusqu'à l'examen particulier.  
 Lorsque M. Hartnett sortait de la maison.



Il ne rencontrait cette Demoiselle par hasard, ou à cause d'un rendez-vous, ils allaient se promener ensemble, en sorte que certains bruits couraient sur leur compte; ce qui est fort peu honorable pour un prêtre et surtout pour le supérieur d'une maison religieuse. Cette affaire, de date récente, a pris une grande importance, depuis qu'une grave accusation a été portée contre un prêtre qui est sorti de la communauté et dont la mémoire est encore présente à tous les esprits parmi le clergé de Brooklyn.

Celles étaient les principales difficultés au milieu desquelles je me trouvais, lorsque j'étais à Brooklyn; je les exposai au visiteur, lui disant qu'il m'était impossible de mettre ma confiance dans un homme tel que M. Hardnett. Je reçus avis de me préparer à partir pour le collège de Capri Girardeau. Cette nouvelle m'était pas de nature à me réjouir, connaissant déjà la réputation de cette maison parmi les confesseurs et avertisseurs du clergé du pays. Malgré tout, j'aimais à croire que tout cela était exagéré. Je me mis en devoir d'exécuter les ordres du visiteur, mais, à mon grand désappointement, je m'aperçus,

bien vite qu'on m'avait pas dit la manière  
 de la vérité. Cette maison est au plus degré pour  
 le rapport de la communauté, des finances et  
 de l'éducation. Le supérieur est tel qu'il vaudrait  
 mieux qu'il n'y en eût pas; il est un obstacle  
 au bien de la maison et à tout ce qui la concerne  
 par son indifférence et son peu de zèle à remplir  
 les devoirs de sa charge.

Il ne fait absolument rien au collège, il refuse  
 même de faire le classe, le soir, pour remplacer  
 un confrère malade; pour les exercices de la  
 communauté, il assiste seulement à l'oraison. Il  
 dit rarement la messe et lorsqu'il la dit trois fois  
 la semaine, les confrères trouvent qu'il est beaucoup.  
 Il ne porte aucun intérêt aux études du collège;  
 lorsqu'il mange à la maison, il est toujours servi  
 à part et beaucoup mieux que le reste de la communauté.  
 M. Hickey passe son temps à pîcher, à se  
 promener à cheval ou à gloser dans le couvent  
 des sœurs, qui est près du collège. M. Dorrning  
 le procureur, n'entend très bien avec M. Hickey  
 et il est plus que lui; les confrères disent qu'il  
 a bu, habituellement, à l'exis pendant deux ans,  
 et cela jusqu'à une époque récente. Pendant  
 deux mois, j'ai été moi-même témoin de



fait et je n'ai pas besoin de la rumour  
publique pour m'être convaincu. Il s'est  
enivré trois fois au grand scandale des prêtres,  
des frères et même des sœurs. Il ne dit la  
messe ni pendant la semaine ni les dimanches,  
ni les jours de fête; le Supérieur le sait  
parfaitement et il ne fait rien pour le corriger.

La communauté souffre de la manière dont  
les choses marchent et si cela continue, on  
se demande si chacun n'est pas plus ou moins  
responsable. Quant à moi, je n'ai pas le  
courage de le supporter plus longtemps. Je ne  
veux pas contribuer par mes travaux à entretenir  
ces hommes dans une vie de dissipation et de désordre.  
C'est pourquoi je vous prie, Monsieur et très honoré  
Père de m'envoyer la Digne de mes vœux;  
je sens que ma santé s'est affaiblie et je ne  
pourrais pas continuer à remplir les devoirs de  
l'enseignement. C'est l'unique remède efficace  
que je connaisse de ne plus être témoin des  
désordres qui règnent dans cette maison.

En attendant votre réponse, je suis, etc.

Guillaume Nolan. et c. m.

Prov.	XXVIII
M.	Volun
Mais.	Cape Girardeau.

1884 Jan 22

St Vincent College  
Cape Girardeau Mo  
Jan 22<sup>d</sup> 84

Very Rev A. Fiat Sub. Gen.  
Most Honored Father.

Gratia D. N. sit semper nobiscum

It has become my duty to inform you Hon. Father of an important resolution I have formed, and to state the reasons which induced me thereto.

Life in the community has become for me insupportable, and to show you that it is truly so



It will be necessary that I go back about a year from the present date to give a clear statement of my difficulties from the time they began.

I was at the time mentioned above an inmate of our College in Brooklyn. From the time Mr Hartnett assumed the control of the house, no harmony existed between this gentleman and his conciers. Those who were favorable to his rule were permitted to do about what they pleased, while those who were suspected of lacking in sympathy <sup>for him</sup> were subjected to a species of persecution. Some who had been most devoted and zealous in the confessional were forbidden to hear confessions, in order that Mr Hartnett might establish his in-

fluence over people who refused his ministrations. These and the like were some of the means <sup>with which</sup> the new Superior inaugurated his government of the house, while his conduct ~~towards his confreres~~ towards his confreres was tyrannical. He purchased cloth of fine texture and had a fashionable tailor to make clothes for himself and one other of the confreres who was his private friend, and the others were sent to a ready-made clothing store to obtain articles of wearing apparel far inferior in quality and value. Mr Hartnett furthermore disedified the community by the irregularity of his life. For example, during three months he with two confreres who were in collusion with him never retired earlier than midnight

they sat up in the Superior room  
 carousing during these three  
 months they (Mr H. and his company)  
 never arose with the community  
 nor were present at meditation  
 except the morning for chapter.  
 This same disorder continued thro-  
 ughout the whole year but not to the  
 same extent. But more than all  
~~the others~~ what offended the con-  
 ferer was the intimacy which ex-  
 isted between Mr H. and an un-  
 married Lady who played the  
 organ in the church. He sat alone  
 with her frequently for more than  
 two hours after the community  
 had or were supposed to have  
 retired.



Prov.
E.M.
Mais.

often too Mr H was in this Lady's company in the College parlor with doors closed from eight in the morning until the bell rang for the dinner examen. When out walking, Mr H. and this person contrived to meet whether by accident or appointment. They went to places of amusement together, and several rumors were abroad <sup>about him</sup> no way creditable to any priest much less the superior of a religious house. This affair assumed great importance for the reason that it is of very recent date since a very serious charge was laid to the character of a priest who left the community

from this house, and the memory  
of which is quite fresh in the  
minds of the secular clergy of  
Brooklyn Diocese.

These were, among <sup>the</sup> principal  
difficulties <sup>of my stay in Brooklyn</sup> and after explaining  
them to the Visitor some by letter  
and others in person and telling  
him I could place no confidence  
in a man of such a character  
as Mr Hartnett. I received notice  
to prepare to the College at  
Cape Girardeau. This intelligence  
was not encouraging owing to  
the Reputation this house has  
throughout the Province among  
the Confreres and among the  
secular clergy of the country.

Considering these reports ex-  
aggerated I promptly complied  
with the Visitors commands  
but to my great disappointment

I have found that not half the truth had been told.

The house here at Cape Girardeau is at the very lowest ebb whether it be considered in regard to matters strictly community or financially or from an educational stand point. It would be much better without a superior than the one it has. For he is but an obstacle to the welfare of the house and everything connected with it by his indifference and want of interest in the duties of his office.

He does absolutely nothing in the college, he even refused to take the class for one evening of a confrere who was sick, as for religious exercises of the community the only <sup>one</sup> he is known to assist at is meditation.



He rarely says mass, the conferees  
 regard him as regular if he says  
 mass twice a week. He does nothing  
 to show an interest in the boys who  
 attend the College, when he takes  
 his meals at home, they are in pri-  
 vate and has better dishes than  
 he provides for the rest of the  
 community. Mr Hickey spends all  
 his time either fishing horse-  
 riding or in gossiping at a  
 convent of Sisters, which is near  
 the College. Again the procurator  
 Mr Downing is in collusion with  
 Mr Hickey and he is even worse  
 than the Superior. for until lately  
 he has been drinking to excess.

habitually for the past two years  
 so it is rumored here by the con-  
 freres. I have been myself wit-  
 ness to sufficient to require  
 no rumor to come to the true  
 knowledge of the case for during  
 the space of two months. He has  
 been publicly and shamefully  
 intoxicated three times to the  
 scandal of Priests Brothers, and  
 externs within and without the  
 College. He did not say mass  
 Sunday or Holydays nor any day  
 The Superior knew of this and  
 made no attempt to correct it  
 The Community here are very  
 discontented at the way things

are allowed to go on and if they are continued something must be attempted on each ones responsibility. I for one will no longer suffer these things. I will not contribute my labors to continue men in idle and vicious lives and hence it is Most Hon. Father I write to demand of you a dispensation from my vows. for my health is failing and I am not able much longer to continue the laborious duty of teaching. Hoping you will forward my paper granting me a dispensation from my vows as the only means I know of to effectually remedy the evils so prevalent in the community. Altho I receive an answer to my letter I subscribe myself

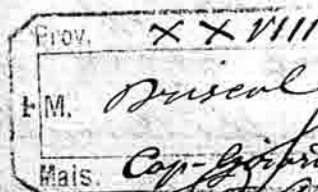
Your unworthy Confere

Wm. P. Kolden C.M.



W. Daniel

Transmitted to 6 Persons



Samuel Vincent College  
Cape Girardeau  
Missouri  
Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 1884

Most Honored Father.

Gratia D. N. T. C. sit semper  
nobiscum.

It is I believe, a privilege  
extended to each and every member  
of the society to confer with you  
concerning any difficulties he may  
have in his relations with the Com-  
munity, or to acquaint you of any  
irregularities existing in the Community,  
which if not eradicated, must inev-  
itably bring odium upon the Com-  
munity, and prove a barrier to the

accomplishment of that end for which  
the society was established. For at that time  
as to myself - I have been thinking  
very seriously for some time about  
withdrawing entirely from the Com<sup>m</sup>unity.  
On the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1879  
I was as unfortunate as to commit a  
serious fault. I was noticed by a  
Gen of our Conference at Brooklyn  
N.Y. under the influence of liquor.  
No one in the Community regretted  
the matter more than I did. I made  
no attempt to conceal the matter from  
the provincial. I related the whole  
case to him and every circumstance  
connected with it. I expressed my  
corruption a letter to him, promised  
that the same would never again  
happen, and I sought him to impose  
a penance, and that I would most  
faithfully perform it. I could <sup>have</sup> done  
no more. On receiving intelligence of  
my sad fate at the time, the Superior,

Rev. T. J. Smith, grew sullen and furious, wrote me a very threatening and what I considered an insulting letter; prohibited me from saying hiss, took from me my classe, and thus kept me housed up during the space of nearly eight weeks! Had it not been for some of my confreres who knew my disposition, I am certain that Rev. T. J. Smith would have thrown me upon the world - This was not all - During the following vacations, he, the provincial, ordered me from Brooklyn to St Marys at Perryville, in this State, and there in that place, which has a most odious name among the secular clergy I labored two years under one of the greatest crankies in the Community, until his harsh and cruel treatment forced me to appeal to the Provincial; for to live under him, and at the same time to lead a happy life, I considered an utter impossibility - It was a little



4.

more than I have gained for when I  
joined the Community - I am there  
I was transferred to this place, and have  
labored very earnestly in my official  
Capacity as Prefect of Discipline, to  
promote the interests of the house.  
But notwithstanding this I consider  
my life as blessed in the Community  
as it has been frequently told me  
that I am yet under a cloud though  
I know of nothing I did since Nov.  
2<sup>nd</sup> 1877, and the Lord knows that  
if any member in the Community was  
ever punished for a fault I was. I  
will not forget it very soon and  
if J. J. Smith governed the Community  
for a Century, and I to be in it, I would  
never communicate with him

5<sup>th</sup> page  
 13

The man is partial in his dealings with his subjects. He has the good will of but a few in the Community. To give you an instance of his partiality, I must state one case, that happened in this very house on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1883.

Our Procurator who was then very much addicted to strong drink became so intoxicated as to fall on the steps of the building in the presence of some priests, Friars, and I think one or two laymen. This was not the first time for this individual to be drunk. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, he was so full as to be scarcely able to wade through the Corridor. He was to act as Dracón at the Mass an all

80  
Sole Day" and he was unable -  
having been on a spree for some  
few weeks preceding. He said no  
Mass in the House of All Saints - Could,  
drink - Nay, since I came to this  
house, nearly two years ago, he said  
Mass but very, very seldom either  
through the week or on Sunday -  
Now our local Superior was aware  
of all this. He could not help but  
know it - Yet never did he impose a  
penance or strive to rectify the abuse  
until the whole community was  
shamefully scandalized - Two days  
after what happened on the 12<sup>th</sup> of  
November our Provincial came along  
to make his regular visit. During his  
stay here he <sup>made</sup> was acquainted with the  
case and all the circumstances connected  
with it. Priests and Brothers testified to  
having seen this man drunk. Now Rev  
J. J. Smith having known this to be true  
passed it over as though it were



of any consequence. He did not even  
impose a penance, but permitted that  
man to continue saying mass and dis-  
charge his duties as though nothing ever  
had happened. Why we might as well  
all turn out and become drunkards!  
Where is the equality of treatment in  
the Community? Compare my case  
with his and then judge for yourself  
and conclude. You must that his was  
far more serious than mine - The  
Community was shocked when it  
saw that nothing was done to the  
Gentleman. The amount of injury such  
conduct has wrought and is at present  
effecting will be known only on  
some future occasion - The majority  
of the members of the Community are  
indignant, and it would take but  
very little to cause some of them to de-  
mand a dispensation from their vows.  
In fact the Community is all broke  
up. Such a thing as Charity is very

were. The men who are placed over  
some of our institution are very poorly  
qualified for the office of Superior -  
They are to a very great extent the  
cause of a great many of the troubles  
that spring up in our midst. They are  
selfish, uncharitable in many respects  
and are too much inclined to be partial.  
At present we are as "sheep without  
a shepherd." We resemble a lot of  
helpless orphans - Our Superior Rev.  
L. W. Hickey is rarely to be found  
at home during the day. He has no  
assistant, and he allows no one in his  
absence to tend to any affairs of the  
house. This makes matters at times very  
disagreeable and gives a cause for a  
great deal of talk. No one knows what

Suite

2<sup>e</sup> page

Prov.	XXVIII
M.	Bridgely
Mals.	Cop. Girardeau

his business may be in going abroad so  
 frequently, yet it is well known that it  
 is not important. He appears to be very  
 highly privileged. He takes very little  
 interest in anything that tends to promote  
 the spiritual or temporal welfare of the  
 institution. He is unknown to the pupils  
 as he never goes among them. They know  
 him only to talk disparagingly of him.  
 Despising him they despise the institution  
 and consequently, when they go out during  
 vacation, they do us much harm. He  
 keeps a fancy black man for his own  
 special use and there is scarcely a day  
 when the master permits that he is not  
 out riding. He has his ears for  
 better than the pupils. He never teaches  
 a class. Semioccasionally he calls



around to the class room, but it would  
be as well for him to remain away as he  
never makes much of an impression.  
The Current which is located near by,  
is a famous place for him to resort.  
He is there every day on a visit and  
sometimes three times a day. Rumor  
has it that the mother was changed  
from there a few years ago on account  
of their being a little too intimate.  
He is better acquainted with the ins  
and outs of the Current than he is  
with his own house. Our people even  
remark the great attention he bestows  
upon the Current on the one hand and  
the candid manner in which he governs  
the College on the other. It is scandalous  
to make the least of it. Then again  
he scarcely or ever takes any recreation  
with the community and but seldom  
goes to the Refectory with us. He  
and the Doctor are undoubtedly  
in collusion for when both at home

They are always cloaked in the Superior's  
favor. The Procurator to make the best of  
him is very mean. He has not much prin-  
ciple or honor about him in his dealings  
with his confessor. Every ~~thing~~ little trifles  
he sees or hears concerning a confessor, he  
carries it immediately to the Superior.  
This is a source of a great deal of  
uncharitableness and has brought odium  
upon the individual himself. If the  
words of our Lord be put, and without  
doubt they are, viz: "that a house divided  
against itself cannot stand," this house  
will certainly meet with its doom in  
some day not far distant. The want  
of a real lively faith and piety in our  
heads is rapidly producing its fruit.

The institution at present is at a very  
low ebb. We are despised by the ma-  
jority of the clergy in our "diocese" and  
all an account of our president who  
is not on friendly relations with any  
of you except a few. They will not

12

assist us in any manner, but on the  
 contrary they do all they can to offend us,  
 and the reason they give is, because they  
 consider Rev. J. W. Kickey as a man  
 unqualified for the position he is holding  
 at present. Again: he seldom says  
 Mass during the week. He is considered  
 by the Congregation as doing well should  
 he offer up the Holy Sacrifice twice per  
 the week. The Parish of which he boasts  
 of being the pastor is sadly neglected  
 in many respects. He never goes near  
 the Church except on Sunday. He has  
 a priest appointed to say Mass for  
 the people every morning but they  
 say it so early, when they could say  
 it at a later hour, Rev. Kickey having



13" / Page 2  
JL

nothing at all to do during the day but  
go about, and hence, no one can attend

it, and especially during the winter season.  
 It is no wonder the people are no  
 better than they are. Could they dispose  
 of their pastor, his presence at this  
 place would be of short duration -

The farms connected with this  
 place are a misnomer and a useless  
 expense to the house. The total expen-  
 -diture of the farms are greater than  
 the receipts. To sink four thousand  
 dollars in one year and no im-  
 -provements to show for it is quite  
 in them. Yet they are permitted  
 to proceed and are I presume,  
 sustained in their <sup>actions</sup> by the authorities.  
 These are facts, but Leonard Fisher

and every member of the Community  
who knows anything concerning the  
house, even the poet an oath, would be  
obliged to believe to the truth of them.

I am not the only one that has  
suffered from the many irregularities  
that exist in the bad management of  
affairs in this Province. There are  
many others, some of whom may  
write to you before many days.

80  
The provincial is acquainted  
with the principal facts that I have  
related in this letter. Why he has not  
taken action before this and endeavor  
to remove the scandal from our  
order is a mystery to us all. If  
these matters be not remedied before  
long there will certainly be serious  
trouble, for it is an outrage on  
humanity to have communities ruled  
by some such superiors as we have.  
As for myself I certainly cannot  
and will not put up with it any

longer, if I see no change for the  
better - I did not join the community  
to be tyrannized over, or by my labors,  
to contribute to the soft and easy life  
that some are leading - I have endeavored  
most humbly further to speak throughout  
this letter in as mild and respectful a tone  
as possible - I hope I have said nothing  
to which you can take exception -  
In conclusion I would request you  
that if matters cannot be rectified  
here with us to send me my papers  
dispense me from my vows, as far  
as you can and I will return to  
my native Direce for under the  
existing circumstances I never could  
be happy -

With my best wishes most  
humbly further for your spiritual and  
temporal welfare

I subscribe myself  
Your devoted Child

B. V. Driess. C. W.



M. D'aval transmits to 21 avril.

St. Vincent's College,  
Cape Girardeau,  
Mo.  
United States of America.

Prov. XXVIII  
M. Asmuth  
Mals. Cap. Girardeau

J. M. J. V.

April 4<sup>th</sup> 184

Very Rev. A. Fiat. Sup. Gen.

Dearest Father,

Gratia Dei: Vostri sit semper nobiscum;

I suppose you have received the Visitor's ~~the~~ letter, stating my case. I do not wish to intrude on your time too much by writing a long letter; all I want to say, is, that I'm sorry for having taken the rash step, and I hope you have already forgiven me. I will try to be more patient and resigned in

the future, I hope I will not be obliged to go through the same experience that I have had for the last five months. I suppose the Visitor has told you in his letter all that is necessary concerning my case. Dearest Father pray for me: I remain in all humility and obedience

Your unworthy son

W. A. Asmuth.

Presse transcribed by 2.37 yhr  
 M. D'aval St. Vincent's  
 College  
 Cape Girardeau,  
 Mo.  
 United States  
 of North America

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 184.

Very Rev. A. Fiat. Sup. Gen.

Very Rev. & Dear Father,

I write to you this time  
 to ask you for a certain  
 permission. I spoke to  
 the Visitor some time  
 ago upon the subject, but  
 he told me it would be  
 necessary to write to you.

I mentioned to him of my  
 intention to help my poor  
 old mother, she is 68 years



82  
The Visitor gave me a few intentions, but that is hardly sufficient. Besides some other conferees might need the intentions as well as I do. I am anxious to make use of the talent which God has given me, lest I might be condemned like the wicked servant mentioned in the Gospel. If you choose to grant me the permission please state also the conditions.

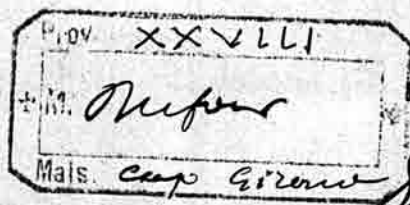
Hoping to hear <sup>from</sup> you soon,  
I remain Very Rev. Father  
Your unworthy & obedient  
Confere

H. A. Asmuth.  
i. s. c. m.

old and very weak, and cannot  
work for her living. My brother  
was a Lazarist and died many  
years ago in California, and  
one of my sisters is a Sister  
of Charity at Philadelphia, so  
I have only another sister  
stopping with her. I have no  
other relatives living, and my  
sister cannot do much, being  
sick most of the time. So I  
would like to do something  
to support my mother. I must  
admit that God has given me  
a great taste and a good talent  
for music. I could play several  
musical instruments when only

five years old, and I have made  
 music a life-long study. The  
 Visitor gave me charge of the  
 Musical Department here at the  
 College two years ago, and I have  
 charge of it yet. Several distinguished  
 Musicians and most of my friends  
 and acquaintances asked me to  
 have my musical compositions  
 published. I have a great heap  
 of manuscript ~~of~~ for Orchestral  
~~mus~~ Pianoforte and Organ and  
 other instruments. All classic music.  
 I am not proud of this talent, dear  
 Father because I know it is a gift  
 of God and he can deprive me of it  
 when he wishes. So I ask your  
 permission to publish my musical  
 compositions, and I will turn the  
 whole profits over to my poor mother.





St. Vincent's College,  
Cape Girardeau,  
May 16, 1884.

My. Rev. A. Fiat, Sup. Gen. C. M.  
Rev. & dear Fr.  
Gratia D. N. J. C. etc.

The object of this letter  
is to ask of you the necessary  
dispensation for leaving the  
Congregation. What reason  
to assign, I know not. Fr.  
Smith wrote to me telling me  
to send for the dispensation,  
and it would be granted me.  
No doubt he has written to you  
and given you the reason. It  
is something he did not

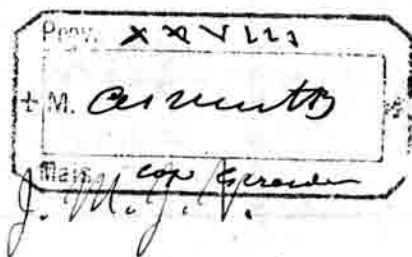
make known to me in his letter.

It is useless to say how sorry I am, to have to write this letter. No one is more grieved at this than I; no one is more sensible of the great loss which I am about to suffer. It seems that my life will not be sufficiently long to atone to God for this fault. However, I do not despair; and I trust that my efforts to move Him to mercy will not be in vain. For He is a God of mercy; One who "wildest not the death of the sinner, but that he be converted and live;" and One who does not despise a contrite and humble heart, "cor contritum et humiliatum, Deus, non

despicer." So this is all that is now left for me to do, to do penance; and I need not say that I will try my utmost to make the best atonement in my power — Knowing that God will require no more of me.

Please accept my best wishes for yourself and the community which I still love. Recommending my poor self to your prayers, I have the honor, Rev. Sir, of subscribing myself  
your humble servant  
Rev. L. X. Dufour.





St. Vincent's College,  
Cape Girardeau,  
Mo.  
United States of America,  
May 25<sup>th</sup> 184.

Very Rev. A. Eich. Sup. Gen. C.M.

Very Rev. Father,

Gratia Dni Nostri sit semper nobiscum.

I suppose you were disappointed in not receiving a long letter from me. However I placed confidence in the Visitor's statement of my case and I see now I have no reason to regret it. He wrote to me saying that you had authorized him to restore me as a member if he deemed proper. He has restored <sup>me</sup> again, and I have already thanked him for it. So I come now to thank you also for your kind

Je viens vous remercier  
aussi pour vos bienveillants  
et favorables égards envers  
moi. Je prierais Dieu de  
rendre votre fardeau léger  
et de répandre sur vous  
ses plus abondantes grâces.

Je veux essayer d'imiter  
notre saint père Vincent  
du plus près que je le pourrai,  
et pour cela je tâcherai  
d'être plus patient et plus  
résigné —

Je suis, avec une  
très-grande reconnaissance,  
votre obéissant et indigne  
fils —

and favorable consideration of  
me. I will pray to God to  
make your brethren light  
and shower down his graces  
upon you most munificently.  
I will try to imitate our  
Holy Father St. Vincent as  
closely as I can, so I will try  
to be more patient and  
resigned.

I remain with very  
much gratitude  
Your obedient and  
unworthy son

H. A. Asmus. i. s. c.



Je suppose que vous avez  
dû être surpris de ne pas  
recevoir une plus longue  
lettre de moi. Néanmoins,  
j'avais mis ma confiance  
dans l'exposition que le  
Visiteur vous avait faite  
de mon cas; et je vois que  
je n'ai pas raison de regretter  
cela. Il m'a écrit en me  
disant que vous l'autorisiez  
à me rétablir comme  
membre. Il le jugeait à  
propos. Il m'a rétabli en  
effet, et je l'ai déjà remercié  
pour cela. Et maintenant

Capt. Girardeau, collég. L. Vincent 11 7<sup>le</sup> 1846

Monsieur et très honoré Père,

Je vous écris aujourd'hui par vos demandes une permission. Je l'ai demandée à M. le Visiteur, il y a quelque temps, mais il m'a dit qu'il fallait m'adresser à vous. Je me trouve dans la nécessité d'aider ma pauvre mère qui a 66 ans et qui est malade. Mon frère Lazariste est mort en Californie depuis plusieurs années, une de mes sœurs est fille de la Charité à Philadelphie; je n'ai qu'une autre sœur qui reste avec ma mère, mais qui est malade et je n'ai pas d'autres parents en vie. Et me semble donc que je dois faire quelque chose pour ma mère. Dieu m'a donné du talent et du goût pour la musique; dans ma plus tendre jeunesse je jouais déjà de plusieurs instruments de musique. M. le Visiteur, depuis deux ans, m'a chargé d'enseigner la musique au collège. Plusieurs musiciens distingués, mes amis et mes connaissances disaient que je publie mes compositions musicales. J'ai une grande quantité de manuscrits pour orchestre, piano, orgue et autres instruments tout est musique classique. Ce n'est pas pour me vanter que je parle ainsi. Je reconnais très bien que c'est un don de Dieu et il

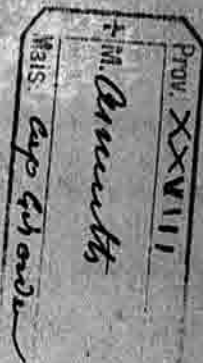


peut me le retirer quand il lui plaira  
Je vous demande donc la permission de  
publier mes compositions musicales et j'en  
consacrerai le produit aux besoins de mon œuvre.

M. le Visiteur me laisse bien quelques  
intentions, mais cela ne suffit pas. Outre  
que d'autres confrères pensent avoir besoin  
comme moi de leurs intentions, je suis inquiet  
de laisser enfouir un talent que Dieu m'a donné  
et je crains qu'il ne me soit traité comme le  
serviteur inutile de l'Evangile. Si vous voulez  
bien m'accorder la permission que je vous demande,  
veuillez m'en indiquer les conditions.

Je suis etc

A. Amuth, i. p. c. m.





Transmitted by 6  
St. Vincent's College,

M. D. Caval

Cape Girardeau,



Mo.  
United States.

September 23<sup>rd</sup> /84

Very Rev. A. Fiat. Sup. Gen.

Very Rev. Father,

Gratia Dni Nostri sit semper nobiscum.

I suppose you have already received the letter which I sent to you a week ago. In that letter I stated that I would like to have your permission to publish my music. I now wish to say that I would prefer not to publish it, and I would rather



make some other arrangements  
with the Visitor to attend to  
the support of my aged  
mother. And I believe you  
would prefer this latter course.  
So I would like to ask you  
not to mind my petition in  
my former letter. I remain

Your obedient & unworthy

Son in X to.

H. A. Asmuth, i. s. c. m.

Very Res. H. H. A. Sup. Gen.



tradu le 6 Décembre  
**Saint Vincent's College,**

Cape Girardeau, Mo.,

pour la Division

7<sup>th</sup> October

1885

Very Rev. and dear Father.

Gratia D.N. Sit semper nobiscum!

I have thought over the matter proposed in your last letter, and have prayed for light to direct me in forming a judgment. In my poor opinion, then, a division is called for. Of course, you yourself must be the best judge in the case, having had experience of the difficulties that the present Regime offers. I believe that we would have more vocations, more concentration of effort by the formation of a new Province. Having a narrower field, and fewer prospective changes, the Confreres would, I think be more devoted to their work, and would not be perpetually looking abroad over the Country, when discontented, or out of humor. *Very truly*

this as an addition to the other and some  
weighty reasons you have expressed  
in your letter.

That a division is necessary I have no  
doubt. But I foresee obstacles which  
however are not insurmountable, which  
indeed are not as great as those to  
usually encountered in the formation  
of new Dioceses.

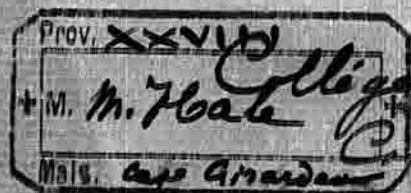
The project of division will receive my  
cordial though feeble support, and  
purely and solely in the interest of  
the Congregation whose success is dearer  
to me than anything else in the world.  
I will write soon again on other  
matters unless we may have a visit  
from you soon.

I am, Very Res. and Dear Father,

Yours most devotedly,

P. W. Hale Esq.

Very Res. T. J. Smith & Co.



St. Vincent

Cape Girardeau, 2110.

Etats-Unis.

Le 27 Juin 1886.

Monsieur et très-Honorable Père,

Votre bénédiction, si il vous plaît!

Il y a plusieurs mois depuis  
que j'ai eu la grande consolation de  
recevoir une lettre de votre propre  
main. Je baisais cette lettre avec le  
plus profond respect, car c'était pour  
moi comme le voix de notre bienheureux  
Père venant au travers l'océan.

La bonté avec laquelle mon premier  
effort a été accueilli m'encourage  
à vous écrire une fois de plus.  
Bonne nuit Monsieur le Visiteur m'a dit



que je pourrais sans beaucoup d'in-  
convénient visiter la Maison-mère.  
Ces vacances, je jugai néanmoins,  
que ce sera plus au bien de notre  
Maison, si je reste ici pour le  
présent.

Il y a un autre sujet, Monsieur, et  
très-honoré Père, que j'ai bien  
considéré devant le Seigneur et  
que je vous propose avec toute  
la confiance d'un fils; Je me  
vous offre bien volontiers pour la  
nouvelle Mission de l'Australie.  
Si vous m'en trouvez digne, ce sera  
pour moi un sujet de grande joie.  
Je suis jeune encore, n'ayant que

trouvé deux ans, le suis aussi assez  
robuste. Je suis de plus Irlandais  
par naissance et presque par  
éducation, et pour ces raisons peut-être  
plus propre pour la nouvelle mission.  
Je n'ai pas encore communiqué  
mon dessein à personne, pas même  
au M. le Vicaire de peur qu'il ne  
mettrait des obstacles à son exécution.  
C'est pourquoi M. et très-honorable Père,  
je me adresse premièrement à  
vous, comme à l'autorité la plus haute,  
et la seule qui peut accorder mes  
vœux. Il sera facile de suppléer  
ma place ici. Il y a plusieurs qui  
seront d'administrateurs plus habiles que  
moi.

88  
Celle-ci est la pays de mon adoption,  
où j'ai des amitiés les plus étroites,  
mais je serais content de rompre  
tous ces liens pour l'extension de  
la petite Compagnie et pour le  
bien de Religion, quoique je ne puis  
y contribuer que très peu.

Il y a longtemps que j'ai pensé à  
cette affaire. Ce n'est donc un premier  
mouvement impulsif, mais une affaire  
bien méditée, bien examinée.

Je la vous recommande Monsieur,  
et très-honorable Père, et en attendant  
de vous une réponse, je me  
soussigne au bas de notre figure,  
et de son Immaculée Mère.  
Votre très dévoué et très obéissant  
fils, Antice McKel, J. p. d. l. M.



XXVI

Cooney

St Vincent College,  
Cape Girardeau,  
Missouri, U. S. A.

Nov. 26. 1890

Very Rev Sir

Though twenty years in the community I have never so far enjoyed the pleasure of addressing the Common Father of St Vincent's two families. From what I hear of your kindness and impartiality to distressed confreres, to have approached you sooner would have been greatly to my peace and happiness and virtue and saved me from much misery and worry. But, in truth, when the idea of a good Father in Paris, one living in the very atmosphere of St Vincent himself and taken from a nation ever disposed to side with the distressed, - came before my mind, there came also the thought of the world-wide care and anxiety of this same Father, and why should I add to his burden? But things seem not to mend with me, - rather to be aggravated - and my power of endurance is weakening - in short, Father, I am sinking, and can see no one in the wild horizon but yourself to cry to for help. In patience and charity, then, hear my tale, which, I regret is long, owing to inherent circumstances and a characteristic of mine to particularize.

At this stage I ask you to read the accompanying statement; it is the last straw that broke the camel's back. Previous to it by a few days, a double charge of wrong doing was brought against me in the presence of a brother, as I was vesting for mass, both of which were false. The Superior had nothing but slight appearances, but so quick was he



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to find fault with me, that he did not stop to enquire whether <sup>they</sup> might not be misleading. I took the enclosed to his room to sign that you might judge on mutually admitted facts, ~~but he~~ refused.

Were this all it would be too trifling <sup>to mention</sup> incidentally to a conferee, much less to bring it before your official notice. It, however, is only one of a multitude that occurred here and elsewhere.

In addition to the second fact mentioned, a sealed letter of mine was opened deliberately and with malice aforethought by a private conferee. Something similar was done in California to me. For three years I have had no vacation, though in one of them I worked twelve or more hours a day in study or classwork; and last year after ten months of hard, unremitting toil, instead of being given some relaxation, I was placed in charge of the parish here from which to enter upon another years grinding. This certainly is not the spirit of St Vincent, nor the letter of the Constitution, nor the dictate of Humanity, but brutal outrage. I could mention many other wrongs from Superiors, from conferees connived at by Superiors, but not to be unpar-  
donably tedious, I prefer to expose the source of them.

These wrongs and outrages have been done me by Superiors and private conferees because it has become generally known that the Visitor is rancorously opposed to me, and, therefore in wronging me they look for impunity, perhaps even praise. Should the matter get to the Visitor's ears, a thing



most unlikely, as I could not approach such a bigot. You won't easily credit unrelenting hate and rankist bigotry in one so placed, so I must give some details.

It was my misfortune to have been assistant in our Chicago parish under Rev. Edu. Smith, C.M. He was a man greatly devoted to worldliness and worse; he gave small attention to duty, had slight regard for rules and was much given to drinking and dissipation. But worst of all, he was very much attached to the young housekeeper. Every night she was in his room after nine. (By room I mean an ante-chamber communicating with his sleeping apartment.) Whether she was in the latter or when she left I don't know. Talk circulated among the people about his relations to her. It came to the ears of the Sisters of Charity and one <sup>of them</sup> who, in addition to the rumors, had witnessed demonstrations of affection that sadly shocked her, disclosed her knowledge to the Visitor (Rev. Polands). She was his particular friend but her regard for the Community and the priesthood made her disregard such considerations. The Visitor ordered the servant dismissed. Of course she wasn't. The Smith family prate much about obedience but are not remarkable for practicing it. (The present Visitor when local Superior, left his house and traveled for months through the country without the slightest authorization). He believed that I was the cause of this order for separation, and all history testifies to the burning hatred felt for one that rashly interferes with a tender attachment. But it wasn't I, though I might and should have interfered to prevent



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the Scandal: it was the good Daughters of St Vincent, - Chief among ~~them~~ his own particular friend, and they are living to-day to testify to the facts.

Soon thereafter our present Visitor, the Cousin of the Rev Edw. Smith, superseded Father Rolando. A remarkable trait in the present Visitor is his disposition to uphold his personal friends and relatives: it is like the Scottish Spirit in the days of the clans. He staid much of his time in Chicago, trying to prop up to some sort of respectability, his shaky Cousin. Finally, by the general dissatisfaction and after protests and threats of the bishop, he was forced to remove his cousin. The Successor declared that the House, under the previous administration was a "Stench in the nostrils of the community."

Now, it is not to be expected that said Rev. Edw. Smith, did not avail himself of the favorable opportunity to poison the mind of his Cousin Visitor against me, the one he fancied that had tried to separate him from his pet servant girl. I was not present on the occasion or occasions, but I feel as sure of it as of anything in life. The Visitor ever since at every chance has shown the effects of it. He has raised the scourge of authority with all the savageness of a slave driver whenever there was the slightest complaint, and only abstained from striking because, even to his begot eye, there was no cause for animal version. When another was gravely compromised and under "Obedience," <sup>the guilt was laid on me</sup> such Venerated Father, has been my lot - one of unrelenting persecution. If I would I have one



5-

Silently he might forget his vindictive hate, but when I asked for relief or change, then all his savagery was aroused. Is such abuse of power to be longer endured by me or tolerated by You? It is not done through any inherent austerity of disposition, for he is indulgent enough to himself and friends. Whilst denying me and others our due and well-earned vacation, he himself never busily engaged, can travel hundreds of miles to witness the orgies of the Mardi Gras at New Orleans and enjoy the balmy Southern climate during the severe Winter months, and it is notorious that his faucon and flatterers can pass through the length and breadth of the Country.

Now, Father, to my mind there are only two remedies for this state of affairs. The first, a thorough searching and impartial enquiry into the allegations here made, and should they be found such as represented, such a dealing with the Visitor as shall prevent him using his power to gratify his personal spite. Besides, I think, there should be something in the nature of a vindication of me. There has been so much unjust and groundless talk of me as rebellious, cranky, uncharitable, that, unless I received your known protection, my life would be a "hell". I have always tried to do my duty, I have never spared study, exertion and application, I have even the Visitor's and Superior's testimony that, in the branches to which I have been chiefly applied, teaching and controlling boys, I have been successful above the average, though I



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have no special aptitude for the business. But it is not study or devotion to duty that tells so much as Sycophancy and subserviency.

If there has been some solitariness and exclusiveness in my life, it arose not from contempt or uncharitableness towards others, but from meeting with unjust treatment and denial of rights, redress being nowhere to be found. What could be done, since one cannot assert himself physically, but retire into oneself. A cherished sentiment of a French poet has it:  
 Le bruit est pour le fat, la plainte pour le sot;  
 L'honnête homme s'éloigne, et ne dit mot.

From the terms of approval contained in your allusions in circulars to the Visitor, I doubt if you will act in accordance with above suggestion, hence I proceed to the other alternative, and I give it with the less apprehension, as the Visitor, in a brutal letter which he wrote to me two years ago, told me to have recourse to it.

It is, that there should be now a severance of connection between me and the Community, and that you send me a dispensation from my dispensable vows. Even if vindicated and placed under the "Segis" of your protection, the sore points would not be allowed to rest. Bad sores are difficult to heal only as long as the afflicted one is tied to instrument which first caused them. Let him



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be able to stand, sit and move around, then they quickly disappear.

Should this suggestion meet your approval I hope you will see the advisability of ordering that a liberal supply of money be given me at leaving. I have been of the least possible expense to the community. I came to it when ready for theology, having paid my own expenses thus far. In it I have never been sick, never smoked, never drank liquors, spent very little on vacations because they have been extremely rare. To let a man go without provision for travel, and maintenance for some time would be like dropping in the middle of the Sahara.

I have written this lengthy and distressing letter through pressure of great worry and presuming on your patience and charity. Think how far away I have been from home, Paris, (I spent twelve years in California which is <sup>almost</sup> considered out of this Province,) and reflect on the constant lesson of experience that power, whether sacred or profane, has invariably ~~been~~ under such circumstances been subject to excess, and then deal with me for best interest of God, the Community and myself.

With great veneration I remain  
 To the  
 Your devoted servant in Christ,  
 Very Rev. A. Fiat, Sup. Gen. Coll., J. V. Cooney, C. M.  
 95, Rue de Sèvres, Paris  
 France.

XXVI

St. Vincent's College



—AND—

ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY.

Cooney Cape Girardeau, Mo Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 1890

Most Rev &amp; Dear Father,

Your letter of 24<sup>th</sup> inst. has been received to day. I thank you most sincerely for the paternal sentiments and beautiful, sublime spirituality therein contained. I beg of you not to believe that because this reply is so soon made, therefore, it is hasty and ill advised. Having foreseen as possible such a response as that received. I had resolved on what course to take, and it is: —

That you be pleased without further delay to send me a dispensation from my vows. The community has become a very house of torture for me. I had thought that through your intervention an improvement might result, but your letter removes that hope. You prefer to believe that I exaggerate. In this, kind Father, with all reverence, I must say you are mistaken. To lie & calumniate are things utterly abhorrent to my nature. To be guilty



of them in a slight degree, much less to that gross excess of which I would be culpable were there none or but slight foundations for my statements — is to me an impossibility.

It seems to me it did not look like a disposition to exaggerate to draw up a statement of a difficulty and then urge and entreat the other party to examine and sign it.

The fact that one particularizes ought to expose one less to the charge of exaggeration.

What room for exaggeration can there be in the statement that for three vacations I was denied relaxation, and that hereby I was treated worse than a horse which, at the end of the day is not unharnessed in the field of labor and left to stand there unrefreshed, to be yoked in anew the next day, tired and exhausted. No, Kind Father, there was no exaggeration, no statement or false coloring of any kind in my letter. But I suppose the individual must be crushed rather than the corporation be shaken.

I have not made the above remarks to induce you to change your action in this matter. The only action now tolerable or possible is separation from the community. Please, Kindest of Fathers, not to delay it by



Suggesting other issues to this affair, such as, change of occupation, location, even a transference into a different province. One and all such are impossible to me now.

Working on the public roads, would now be a more pleasing prospect than continuance in the Community. I believe there is a pagan fable of a man being clothed by the gods in a coat that caused him agony on every side. — Such is my situation. Reconciliation is out of the question.

I would most respectfully (and gratefully too for the tender kindness displayed in your letter) ask you to refer again to the recommendations ~~in~~ relative to money at the close of my previous letter and would make an additional request that you order the Visitor to be as favorable as truth shall permit in his letter of character to me. It would please me much to have as arbitrator in these two matters the Rev. Thos. Shaw, C. M., lately delegate to the General Assembly. He has known me from the beginning and besides, is devoted to the Community and will do justice to both sides.

Regretting much this trouble I am causing you, and again thanking you for your tenderness.

I remain most sincerely Yours,  
J. V. Coodey.



St. Vincent's College

—AND—

ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY.

Couney Cape Girardeau, Mo. Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 1891

Very Res and Dear Sir

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of last Dec. I felt constrained to write for an immediate dispensation from my vows. This was an absolute, unconditional, irrevocable demand. On the supposition of your prompt compliance with my request and that, consequently, my dispensation was on the point of arriving, I was about to discontinue yesterday all occupation in the service of the community as that was the beginning of the second term, and would therefore be a convenient stopping place. But the Superior objected so strenuously to such action on my part, saying that it would cause talk amongst the students, etc, that I reluctantly kept on working. I hope that the prompt arrival of your authorization will soon set me free.

Yr. Father, from any charitably

1. Mr. Cooney

2. Map of each man  
given d'après son map



conceived, but unfounded, hope of  
reconciliation you have delayed the  
sending of my dispensation, I beg of  
you at once to put an end to this agony  
— even I would presume to suggest  
that you telegraph the permission,  
to be afterwards followed by the  
formal document. I don't want  
to cause unnecessary disturbance,  
annoyance or embarrassment here, I  
wish to leave the community on good  
terms and in good odor, so I hope I  
shall not be driven to desperation.  
In the present situation I feel a stranger  
and a foreigner.

Please, Father, if you have not  
done so already terminate at once and  
in the speediest manner this horrible  
torture, and greatly oblige

Yours most sincerely & respectfully,  
J. V. Cronin

To the  
Very Rev. J. Fiat. S. G. C. M.,  
Paris, France  
P.S.

I humbly recommend myself to  
Your holy Prayers, J. V. C.

XXVI



St. Vincent's College

—AND—

ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY.

Cooney

Cape Girardeau, Mo. 9<sup>th</sup> de Mar 1891

Très honoré Père,

Je vais a faire un essai a écrire cette lettre en Français, et pour le meurtre que je ferai a votre langage exquisité, Je vous demande pardon.

Je fais cela pensant que vous n'avez pas bien entendue mes lettres en Anglais

Aujourd'hui j'ai quitté la Communauté et cela a été forcé a moi. C'est impossible pour moi de vivre dans la Communauté autrement que dans une place de torture

Jusque la j'ai essayé faire mes devoirs de Communauté, mais pour quelque temps je trouve, et je le trouve <sup>plus</sup> chaque jour, que c'est impossible a moi dans le futur. Seulement Colere, mecontentement et indignation seraient mes pensées. Je suis si sur de cela que je suis sur que le Soleil apparaitra demain

Je crois que je n'ai rien ajouté a la

réputation de la communion mais, je  
n'ai rien détecté. Je desirais de toute mon  
âme de vivre une bonne vie de prêtre  
dans une situation sacerdotale. Si vous  
refusez d'envoyer mes papiers vite  
et je ne peut pas avoir l'occasion de vivre  
la vie de prêtre sans les, je m'engagerai  
dans la vie séculière et je deviendrai  
employé, teneur de livres, ou cocher, etc  
Dans notre pays il faut travailler si on  
veut manger

92  
Ce serait inutile pour moi d'écrire  
au Visiteur puisque il est l'accusé principal  
dans mes lettres. Dans notre pays (je crois  
qu'on le pense barbare en Europe) si une  
cause vient devant un juge dans laquelle  
il a été engagé avant sa nomination comme  
juge, il refuse absolument de le décider

Autrement tout le monde le condamne.  
Donc dans ma cause, demander la décision  
de Rev Thos. Smith, me semble la même  
chose que demander le diable sur l'état  
de péché. Et si vous regardez la dernière  
partie de ma première lettre, vous verrez  
que l'opposition du Visiteur ne doit  
pas compter

Pour le reste, Monsieur, je laisse



cette affaire avec votre conscience. Prenez  
garde que dans votre zèle pour maintenir  
une communauté vous ne soutenez pas la  
bigoterie et rancune. Une Communauté  
qui ne peut pas gagner l'adhésion volun-  
taire de ses membres, mais qui les a ca-  
chainer ou devenir leur prison de torture,  
ne peut pas être "la petite compagnie de  
séculaires" comme St Vincent les nomme.  
Je ne crois pas qu'une telle torture <sup>forcé</sup> est en  
accord avec ses actions

Lorsque c'est la première temps  
que j'ai vous troublé depuis vingt ans de  
ma vie de communauté, je regrette  
profondément l'ennuyance que je vous  
ai causé.

Je me commende de nouveau à  
vos prières pieuses.

Avec grand respect je  
reste votre tout dévoué  
J. V. Cooney.

A  
Très Rev. A. Fiat. Sup. Gen., C. M.,  
Paris, France.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church,  
Defiance, Ohio.  
Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> 1891

Very Rev Sir,

After leaving the community I tried to write to you in French, advising you of the fact and requesting you to forward at once my ecclat or diuuniscorial papers. It has since occurred to me that I failed to give you any address to which my papers might be directed. I now send you the above, the residence of a friend with whom I am spending the interval.

Doubtless you will have sent my papers before the arrival of this. If so please

To  
Very Res A. Fiat. Sup. Gen. b. k  
Paris, France



have the goodness to let me know of the fact that I may procure them immediately.

I have been out of the community for a week and have not felt a single regret, on the contrary, this conclusion has become still more fixed in my mind, that for my own peace and happiness and for the good of the community the step was the right one. I do lament very much that I was forced to leave without the formal concurrence of the community.

I again earnestly supplicate, in the interests of justice, that you appoint Father Thos. Shaw, C. M. to see that I get an equitable testimonial letter from the Visitor.

With great respect Yours sincerely,  
J. V. Cooney

Coney

Defiance, Ohio  
Apr 28, 91

Very Rev A. Fiat

The dispensation was duly received two weeks ago. Before and since I have been corresponding with the Visitor, Rev Thos Smith for a letter of character. He persistently refuses to give it, notwithstanding I appealed to him in the strongest and most solemn manner, as the inclosed copies of letters will show. Now, Father, this is the rank injustice. My life in Community justifies a good letter and the circumstances imperatively demand it.

The Visitor says that he is powerless in the matter, he does not say why or he does not point

In the name of Justice; I demand repara-  
tion of this enormous wrong. At once send me  
a letter yourself and engage into the cause  
of such gross, inhuman injustice, a display  
of wrong most foreign to the gentle, loving  
spirit of St Vincent.

In great respect and in all truth.

Most Sincerely Yours

J. V. Cooney



out the way in which so essential  
matter can be remedied. And yet  
this is the man of whom you  
say "que vous aiment beaucoup"  
I can't understand his action  
at all. Perhaps you may have  
sent him the letter containing  
the charges, and seeing my re-  
quest in that for another conference  
to see that justice was done me  
in the matter of the testimonial,  
he may have inductively abstained  
from writing the letter. You can  
see from this Father, in how noble  
a being you placed confidence.  
Anyhow the most outrageous in-  
justice has been done me.

I cannot believe that you  
exempted him from the duty  
of giving me a letter, for in  
that case you <sup>would</sup> have provided  
for it in another way

L'auteur de la lettre accuse réception  
de la Dispense demandée; ce il se  
plaint amèrement de ce que le  
Visiteur refuse de lui donner  
le Certificat qu'il lui a demandé  
avec persévérance: il dit que  
c'est là une injustice que sa vie  
dans la Communauté n'explique pas.

Le Visiteur dit que les Prévôts  
ne l'autorisent <sup>pas</sup> à donner cette lettre  
de recommandation, et pourtant  
il est l'homme en qui le fr. honn. Pén  
a mis sa confiance... - Puisque  
M. Smith lui veut faire cette grave  
et odieuse injustice, il prie le  
supérieur général de lui envoyer  
le Certificat (de bonne conduite) dont  
il a absolument besoin -

(La d'emp écrit ci-inclus pour des  
copies des lettres qu'il a écrites au  
Visiteur pour lui demander  
le Certificat ou lettre de  
recommandation qui lui  
en est nécessaire)

Apr. 6. 91

Very Res. Thos. Smith, etc.

I wrote you a week ago, advising you of the probability of references being made to you in regard to me, and requesting of you a friendly generous ~~to make~~ response to the same. Since then, I have myself received a cordial acceptance, the condition being that my father should come up to representation. Please then send me any letters of recommendations, and as warm as your conscience will allow.

<sup>to your letter</sup> You need not be apprehensive that I mean to get settled before the final arrangements with Paris. I intend only to secure through it a place to which I could at once retire when my papers shall have come, a time which cannot now be far distant. In the language of the Frog it may be very pleasant occupation for you to be indifferent and inactive in this matter, but I assure you it is equally torturing to me. You declined to see



me on the plea that I had put myself  
in the hands of the Superior General. It  
is true that I appealed for protection to  
him, but I invoked special jurisdiction  
and furthermore got no assurance or  
intimation of any particular interest on  
his part much less that I had become  
his particular charge. Now in the most  
solemn manner possible to me, I lay  
this matter on my conscience. I  
claim in justice and before God that  
without unnecessary delay you comply  
with the request herein contained.  
Should you not do so, and as a consequence  
should my name disappear from  
the ecclesiastical Directory you can  
settle the accountability before the  
just Judge.

etc etc of the

Apr 18. 91  
Rev Thos Smith.

I have been in possession  
of my dispensation from Paris for more  
than a week and I presume you were notified  
at the same time of the granting of the dispensa-  
tion. Sorry that your testimonial letter has not  
arrived. In my efforts to explain your action  
in regard to said letter - I was unavoidable  
as I thought every one had a right to a just  
estimate of his character by Superior -  
I settled on the suggestion that you were  
waiting the fulfilment of this condition  
Nam that after its occurrence you shall  
fail to send me my letter. I am entirely  
at sea, and write for plain simple answers

to direct questions, and I trust they will  
be given in order that I may know where  
I stand and how to guide myself accord-  
ingly.

Do you mean to give me a letter and  
when? If you do not, state the reason  
of your declination, throw some light  
on the subject that I may not be in too  
dense darkness. You know that with  
out your letter I am lame hand & foot.  
And if it is not to be given the fact  
should be promptly and plainly stated  
and a very slight kindness would  
point out how the failure could be  
obviated.

Yours &c. J. V. Conway





# St. Vincent's College

—AND—

ECCLÉSIASTICAL SEMINARY.

Molan Cape Girardeau, Mo. April 20<sup>th</sup> 1891

Very Rev A. Fiat S. G. C.M.

Gratia D. N. J. C. sit semper vobiscum.

In the Winter of '83 and '84 I was obliged to trouble you Honored Sir with a letter of complaint. Your answer was kind and Fatherly for which I have felt very grateful. But now owing to over-work, I feel my health much impaired, maybe permanently, so that I will scarcely be able to continue teaching, particularly the kind we are called upon to do here.

Then it is useless to consult the Visitor, it is most unsatisfactory to do so by letter, and his visitations are at such great intervals that the results desired cannot be attained by an individual having an important matter to communicate to him. hence, I am again obliged

2.  $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$



ECOLESTIATICAL SEMINARY.

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تاریخ و جغرافیہ

Very Rev A. Fiat S. G. C. M.  
No. 95 Rue de Seves  
Paris  
France

95

to trouble you with my affairs

This time I consider it unnecessary to make any detailed complaints, but have come to the conclusion that the community is not any longer a place for me, and in consequence of this conviction. I petition you Most Honored Father, to dispense me, from my dispensable vows, and immediately,

The position of one with my sentiments in the community is very undesirable, both for myself, and for the others. The Community would have no confidence in one who is anxious to leave it, and the life would be of no benefit to me.

While urging you most respectfully, I hope I will not be compelled to leave without having first received the required Dispensation, as I am aware of no motive for changing my views on the matter. I shall be prepared to depart hence, on the arrival of your answer.

I have the honor to be In the S.H. of J & M

Your Unworthy Son & Brother

Wm. Nolan c.m.



XXVI



St. Vincent's College

—AND—

ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY.

Nolan

Cape Girardeau, Mo. May 4<sup>th</sup> 1891

Very Rev A. Fiat Sup. Gen. C. M.

Most Honored Father

I am under the necessity of writing to you again to further urge <sup>you</sup> to send me my dispensation without fail. The Visitor has given me notice to leave for California and it would be useless for me to go there for a few days, then I would be without means to defray my expenses coming back. I have requested the Visitor to allow me to remain here til I get the dispensation. I am fully determined to leave the community and will absolutely not reconsider the ~~step~~ step I have taken in the matter. I expect that I will be obliged to leave as soon as your answer reaches me, as I wish to leave peaceably and charitably. I hope you will give me my dimissorials promptly. I further request as a favor that you notify the Visitor to give me a testimonial of my



# St. Vincent's College

—AND—

ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY.

Nolan

Cape Girardeau, Mo. .... 189

character while in the community  
so that I may be able to continue to  
lead the life of a good priest, hoping  
for a speedy answer

I have the Honor to be  
Your unworthy confere  
Yrs Nolan c. m.

XXVI



St. Vincent's College

—AND—

ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY.

Hennelly Cape Girardeau, Mo. May 23? 1891.

Rev. & Very Honored Father,  
Your blessing if you please.

Presuming on your oft proved  
much appreciated kindness, I write for a permission  
near & dear to my heart. I have an aged mother  
whose dying desire is to see me. It is true,  
I saw her over two years ago; but now she  
cannot live much longer, & so to gratify her  
desire, I appeal to your kind heart. I asked  
permission from the Visitor, but he said it was  
necessary for me to write to you. I am now engaged  
in college, & hence my going to see my aged mother will  
not interfere with my duties. Vacation begins in  
a few weeks, & so I hope you will grant my request.  
My mother lives close to our house at Niagara  
Falls, & so during my visit home, I can be with our  
Comfres there.

I have the honor of being,  
Very Rev. Superior,

Your very respectful & devoted son,  
J. E. Hennelly, I. S. C. M.,





St. Vincent's College

—AND—

ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY.

Nolan Cape Girardeau, Mo. June 9th 1891

Very Rev A. Fiat c.m. S. G.

Most Hon Father

Your Blessing if you please.

Within the past two months, I have come to the conclusion that it would be best for me to sever my connection with the community, to bring this about, I have written to you twice, but have not received the slightest intimation that my letters reached you. I gave notice to the Visitor and received from him three letters, and had a personal interview with him for a few moments, which amounted to nothing.

I feel that I have done my duty in the matter, and the responsibility of my future conduct must rest with you. After allowing sufficient time to get an answer from you I will then act as will seem best to me.

I am in the S. H of J & M.

Your unworthy Confere Wm Nolan

XXVI

Richardson

St Vincent's College

Cape Girardeau, Mo. U.S.

July 19<sup>th</sup> 1891

Very Rev. A. Trapp, Gen  
 Congregation of the Mission  
 95 Rue de Serres, Paris  
 France

Very Rev. Dear Father

I write on a very important subject, and yet I write with much reluctance. Early in February last there culminated in our House (St. Vincent's Church St. Louis Mo. U. S. of North America) a serious trouble which resulted in total demoralization of the House, the destruction of all rule regularly, the very semblance of Community life, the desertion of a Comprose Rev. P. G. Kreutz, the scandal of the whole Parish, the talk of the city and the disedification of the entire Community. Now I said that I write with much reluctance, and if I alone were concerned, I would remain silent. But as I was then the Superior of the House, I deem it my duty, to you, to the whole Community, and to myself to simply make

## A Statement

of the matter. This is not an easy or disagreeable duty, and for many reasons. 1. You have no doubt, been already informed at least to some extent; 2. Because, here in the U.S. there is a strong and quite prevalent impression, that there is no use in writing to Paris, that once letters are returned to the Visitor, and the whole affair left to his disposal; (but if the Visitor's dictum is to decide, what's the use in writing to the Superior General). Pardon me, if I write with the plainness and candor characteristic of an American; 3. Because, I cannot adequately convey to you by letter the true state of the case; and even if I could, you would not believe it, (and I wouldn't blame you for not believing, for I myself would not believe, if I had not, had personal experience, seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears.)



(2)

21. Because I have no complaints to make, no fault to  
 find, no power to ask, no rights to maintain, no  
 wrongs to redress; (for though I have been deeply wrong-  
 ed and injured, I ask, I seek no redress or reparation  
 for the injury and wrong have been of such a nature, as  
 to render reparation impossible). I waive all these con-  
 siderations, and write simply from a sense of duty,  
 with the hope, that my statement, whilst, wholly im-  
 profitable to me personally, may be the means of preserving  
 the future disorders; may assist in maintaining the  
 authority of Local Superiors, grossly disgraced in my  
 case. I demanded an investigation of the Visitor, he re-  
 fused, and I suppose for reasons well known to himself.  
 Therefore it remained for me but to tender my resignation.  
 He wouldn't accept it. <sup>He said</sup> I could write you. After a short  
 time (a few weeks), I wrote to him and again tendered my  
 resignation, which he this time accepted. This was the only  
 course that I could humbly and conscientiously follow. I  
 could not remain in a house where the subject could be  
 permitted to treat the superior, as if he were an intruder,  
 and had no claim <sup>on</sup> the Community.

### Statement

The trouble originated first in the meddling of some  
 of the Sister-Servants of your dear Daughters of Charity's  
 2) in jealousy and national differences among two Con-  
 feres, and the Policy pursued by the Visitor. Let me  
 explain a little in detail. I came to St. Louis, in Jan'y  
 1884; the following Easter, I had a little misunderstanding  
 with one of the Sister-Servants relative to my inability on ac-  
 count of circumstances, to have one of our priests present at  
 the funeral of a deceased Sister. The Sister-Servant, was  
 highly incensed, and was not bashful in expressing her dis-  
 satisfaction to me, on an occasion of my giving a Reti-  
 at the house. She offended me very much, in that occasion  
 and also, at another time she used language in my pres-  
 ence, which I considered highly discourteous, as reflecting  
 on the whole Community of the Priests of the Mission (the  
 words she made use of were: that she never knew a Layman  
 to refuse money) and some other language which she  
 made use of, concerning me personally, all which I  
 considered uncalled for, and presumptuous on her  
 part. She (of course) told the matter to other Sister-Servants, and  
 so it spread to all. However I continued to do my duty



When called upon, but never visiting; rigidly observing the  
 rule in this respect. This conduct gained for me the re-  
 putation of being unfriendly to the Sisters, and of course  
 did not tend to breed malice. But very unjust to me, for  
 I never refused them a service, when opportunity offered  
 and our rules required it. And as for visiting their houses  
 when not called upon by rule or duty, I confess I had little  
 inclination and less leisure; and moreover, I considered that  
 I could serve their interests much better by keeping away  
 from them. Such is an imperfect statement of the part  
 the Sisters played in our recent trouble. Their meddling  
 with my government of the House was effected wholly thro'  
 Father Kerrick our Procurator, who was Confessor, and  
 through whom, all my affairs, and the doings of our  
 House were made known. He was on very friendly terms  
 with most of them, and therefore instead of seeing me,  
 about our affairs, and duties towards them, they for-  
 the most part arranged with him. I am bold to say that  
 if it were not for their mixing themselves up in our affairs  
 in this way, the trouble could never have happened.  
 So much for the Sisters' part.

I said, secondly, that our trouble was also caused  
 by jealousy and national differences. Allow me to ex-  
 plain somewhat in detail. To understand me, it would  
 be well to bear in mind, that St. Vincent's Parish St. Louis  
 is composed of two nationalities, German and English.  
 The German is by far the larger (3/4) and more influ-  
 ential in wealth and respectability. This, of course, gives  
 to the German Confessors a certain importance, which they  
 are not by any means slow to recognize, and assert; in-  
 deed, it was unquestioned, no body dreamed of deny-  
 ing it. One of their German Confessors, had been before  
 becoming a priest, a postulant Brother in our Community.  
 He had been a Carpenter by trade, was a very intelligent  
 mechanic, which fact, he did not, practically ignore when  
 he became a priest. He was, active zealous, ready for  
 any work, never sparing himself, but so filled with his own  
 importance that he knew every thing; therefore he was <sup>not</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> most  
 obedient Confessor in the world.

Owing to the predominance of the <sup>(41)</sup>German element and the  
 natural acrimony of his character, this Confessor Fr. Kreutz,  
 assumed by far the largest part of the (at least) material  
 and financial management of the parish. This was taken  
 as a matter of course, and nobody found fault especially  
 as the money matters of the parish were very prosperous under  
 his direction. Now when I came to St Vincent, I found  
 a <sup>very</sup> unfriendly feeling between this Confessor and Father  
 Kenrick our Procurator; the feeling between them, was very bitter  
 and caused me much anxiety. I was, as it were, between  
 two fires, On account of my position, I could not side or  
 sympathize with either in their mutual hostility. I was obliged  
 to see to the welfare of the parish, the house, as well as, of  
 the individual Confessors. I was not long in discovering that  
 Father Kenrick, thought, that I was leaning too much towards  
 Germany. I was accused at the House of the Good Sister &  
 above imputed of being "led by a Dutchman, (How she  
 found it out it is not hard to surmise) and the Visitor wrote  
 me a sharp letter to the same effect. Hence you can see  
 my position, and all my words and actions were known  
 to others, through, the jealousy and hostility of these two Conf-  
 essors and the conviction in Father Kenrick's mind that I  
 was taking the German's part, in opposition to himself  
 and yet nothing could be farther from the truth.

This state of things continued for about <sup>the</sup> first four years of  
 my administration. About that time I received a letter from  
 our Visitor requiring me to revive some Community exercises  
 that had somewhat fallen into disuse on account I suppose  
 of the press of parochial duties. These exercises were, the  
 weekly Conference, and the domestic Council. I, of course,  
 promptly obeyed, but not with much opposition, indeed  
 from that introduction may be dated, a state of things, wholly  
 incompatible with Community life; and which could be un-  
 derstood only by being present. The two good Confessors thus  
 far, enemies became fast friends, bosom companions  
 and both united to make me feel, the folly of obeying  
 my Visitor's instructions. No week, scarcely a day passed  
 in which I was <sup>not</sup> assailed in some way or other. In brief, they in  
 the course of the three following <sup>years</sup> continued their opposition and  
 hostility to such a degree, as, to ignore, not only the claims of a Super-  
 ior, of a Priest, of a member of the Community, but, even of an  
 the lowest member: in fact, forgot all consideration for me.



But they did not content themselves with treating me with the least indignity; they furthermore procured the removal from the house a young Confessor, who pretended to show me a little consideration. He was indeed not without some faults incident to youth and inexperience, but he had no malice, and tried to avoid their evil example. He was replaced by another young Confessor, who was, at first tractable and obedient, but sharp and selfish. He soon saw how the world blew, and even outdid the others in his unworthy conduct, and thus secured his good standing with the others. He well knew, that he would be sustained, and I was deeply mortified to see him smile scornfully at me as I gave him, in the most paternal manner possible some good advice; and also the instructions of the Visitor in regard to his conduct. And this was not all; but other Confessors, passing through St. Louis, and stopping at our House caught the spirit; so that the conduct of our Confessors, in St. Louis, toward the Superior, became well known throughout the Province.

Last year especially, these Confessors, seemed to surpass themselves, to cast off all restraint. On two occasions, during the absence of Father Kenrick the regular Confessor of the Sisters, Father Krutz, took his place, without my knowledge, and last August through them, one of our brothers was allowed to travel to Philadelphia, at the expense of our House, and to be absent a month, with no one to supply his place also, without my knowledge; and last January, both Father Kenrick and Krutz actually began the Annual Retreat, at the Good Sister's House. I often already mentioned not only without my consent, and approval, but actually without my knowledge; and on the morning of the 7th day I had the mortification to see Fr. Krutz, leave the Chapel as we were preparing to read your Annual Circular, and go fully three miles, to this Sister's House to close the retreat without giving me one word of explanation.



What I have, thus far, stated <sup>6</sup> might have been borne in  
 silence, as so many other violations of holy rules had  
 been, but the climax, and culmination, the immediate  
 cause of the trouble, was the application to me of a very  
 insulting and contemptuous <sup>name</sup> by Father Kenrick, and that  
 too in the Domestic Council, because I would not consent  
 to a measure, that was not in my power to permit. Our  
 good Confere<sup>nt</sup> Fr. Kenrick, said "I wish the Visitor would  
 send us a Superior, that would not be a Figure-head."  
 It is difficult to convey to you, the degree of discourtesy,  
 contempt and disdain, contained in the epithet. I  
 thought it incumbent on me to be silent no longer, but to make  
 some effort to maintain the principle the law, and virtue  
 of obedience, and the respect due to Authority. I had been  
 thinking some time previous of answering fully your  
 Circular of last November, addressed to local Superiors  
 only. So a few days after Father Kenrick's insult, I detained  
 the Community in the Chapel after night prayers, and with  
 the Circular in my hand, I informed the assembled Com-  
 munity, that I was about to write to you, I alluded to the  
 glaring <sup>insult</sup> I, and the Community in my person had received  
 from Fr. Kenrick, and reminded them, that although I was  
 unworthy of the Office which I held, although, I was (ac-  
 cording to Fr. K.) but a figure-head, still I was Superior  
 by your Appointment, and that the insult did not sim-  
 ply rest upon me, but upon the Superior General, and thro  
 him upon the whole Community. I then charged the  
 duties of Father Kenrick, removed him, from the duty  
 of hearing the Sisters' Confessions, and I bound all the  
 Confere<sup>nt</sup>s, under pain of Obedience, not enter a house  
 of the Daughters of Charity, nor receive any thing from  
 them, nor to hold communication with them except in  
 the way prescribed by our Holy Rules, with the know-  
 ledge and approbation of the Superior. One week after  
 this, Father Kreutz, gave a fitting close to the Sisters' Retreat  
 by retreating himself by deserting the Community, under  
 circumstances most aggravating to me, and leaving behind seeds  
 of calumny, &c, which I fear, are destined to produce a very harvest of evil.

Now, I seem to myself, if a <sup>571</sup> visitor to hear you say "Why did you not notify the Visitor." This I confess is the most difficult part of my statement. I will, for many reasons, state, that in the beginning, I knew the Visitor's position was rather delicate on account of the two nationalities at St Vincent's, 2. I wanted to spare him all the care and anxiety possibly, knowing as I did on a scarcity of German Priests, 3. He was kept duly informed of every move as understood by Father Kewrick, and 4. He was frequently at our house and saw things himself; so that any explanation of matters I considered altogether superfluous. His conduct towards me in these troubles is wholly inexplicable. Little, very little sympathy or encouragement I received from him. In my first years I received two or three bitter cutting and sarcastic letters, and for what I don't know even to this day. On one occasion I was obliged to consult him in regard to some anticipated trouble with Father Kewrick, as follows: "Father Kewrick feels that you are in his power, and he seems willing to exercise it." I leave you to judge the position of a Superior to whom his Visitor would write thus of a subject. In fine it would almost appear that the Visitor instead of rectifying matters, would by his silence, passivity, and general bearing, seem rather to connive and encourage the evil. I cannot explain it. Did he wish by allowing my lot to become so intolerable as to force my resignation? It was wholly unnecessary. In I was for three years daily expecting my removal. He had but to say the word and I would be ready in an hour. He saw me insulted in his presence, he listened to language of fault-finding and insinuation even before my own face, and when I out of respect for him declined to defend myself he never said a word or asked a single explanation. I swallowed every blow that was said. And the, most inexplicable of all is that the very men, that were causing the trouble, and as it were calling the Superior's throat, were his, bosom friends, and confidants; even when he well knew of their unworthy conduct towards the Superior. How this can be explained I do not know, but I suppose, the Visitor can satisfactorily explain. I but state facts.



The Visitor was not at home when the trouble culminated. I did not know where he was, but many letters directed to him in St. Louis, led me to believe that he would be in St. Louis any day. He did not come until the trouble was all over, and the Commotion had nearly subsided. I, of course expected that he would at least investigate, try to discover who was to blame. Well; he did no such thing. He spent nearly a whole afternoon, with Father Kreutz and, of course got his side of the trouble. I very naturally expected that I should be called to explain my side. I waited very impatiently for some days, but was amazed to find that I was not called at all. I went to his room and found him writing so I withdrew, saying I would come at another time. Next day I was deeply mortified to find that he had quietly restored Father Kreutz to his office of Confessor to the Sisters - the very source of all the trouble - thereby without a word to me undoing all that I had done, and when I indignantly remonstrated; he asked me if he had not authority to appoint the Confessor of the Sisters. I answered, that his authority was not in question, but, under the circumstances, I had a right to a hearing, especially as that Sister business was at the bottom of the whole trouble. He replied simply that he did not know it. I was very angry at such high-handed proceedings, and declared that if he did not revoke the appointment, I would resign and leave the house. He then wrote out a few directions for the government of the house, and appointed myself the Confessor of the Sisters. But there was not one word about Father Kreutz's leaving; not one word about all the trouble and sorrow, caused me by the unworthy conduct of the Confessor; not one word of blame or censure to any one, as if there was no fault anywhere. Strange, very strange; that all these disturbances should occur and no one to blame. Indeed, I looked upon his conduct, in the matter, as an indirect approval, of the Confessor's conduct towards me. The Visitor seemed in my regard to ignore, not only his position of Visitor, his character of priest, of member of the Community; of Confessor even of an ordinary Christian; but even of a gentleman, of a man, of any character, or honor. He would not go to Russia for instances, of arbitrary high handed, despotic tyranny - use or rather abuse of power, of authority. How can I respect or confide in one, who thus tramples on even natural rights - the right to be heard? Is there any wonder why there should be among us so little love; or fraternal feeling and so much distrust and alienation? Is it a wonder that so many leave us, and join the secular clergy?



(9)

The truth is (and it is an open secret with us) that money is the great motor, here, not only in material things, but even in the things of God. And a man is weighed, not so much by the spirit of his state, his strict observance of vows and rules but, rather by his Financial Influence. This it was that ruined Father X<sup>o</sup> - he could raise money, and therefore, he could do as he liked, quite independent of his Community obligations. - This also greatly contributed to Father Kearns's fall. He talked much and mixed much in money-matters and though very incapable of acquiring, he could fairly manage, and cling to money with the tenacity of a miser.

And now who am I, that have thus presumed to tax so much of your time and attention. I am now about fifty years old, with 26 years of vocation to day and 22 years from the day of my Ordination, and during this time with <sup>at</sup> scarcely a day charged with, or rather under authority of office or position of some kind - responsibility of some kind and I am bold enough to state, that I have devoted myself, to the material, mental and moral interests of the Community, to the best of my ability. And furthermore, my record is such that it can challenge the most hostile criticism.

Let me now briefly sum up the substance of this lengthy Communication. I stated, the great trouble at St Vincent's, viz. my reluctance to write, and my reasons, and 3. the causes of the trouble, viz. the Sisters meddling with our priests and seducing them from the shores of rule, the jealousy and national differences of our Conferences, and their hostility to the Superior, and lastly the tenor of the Visitor's Conduct, in the matter, and the favor he showed and still shows to those Confessors, who so glaringly violated their rules and duty. In conclusion I have but to offer you a two-fold apology: 1<sup>st</sup> for the length of the letter, which I thought <sup>well</sup> gave but a very meagre account of things, and 2<sup>nd</sup> for writing in English, as I could hardly trust myself to explain myself in French. I sincerely hope however, that you will find one of our good Confessors sufficiently versed in English, as to give you the true sense of this letter. I have written, in a spirit of truth and candor, under the pressure of a deep sense of duty, which demands I commit all to the keeping of our Divine Lord, whom I earnestly entreat, through the intercession of St Vincent & P. B. his magnified saints to revive in us the spirit of our holy state. I am with deepest reverence and respect, Your unworthy Confessor

M. V. Richardson  
L. C. M.

XXVI Richardson



St. Vincent's College

—AND—

ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY.

Cape Girardeau, Mo. Aug 19<sup>th</sup> 1891

Very Rev. A. Fiat-Sup. Gen.  
of the Con. of the Mission  
95 Rue de Sèvres, Paris  
France

Very Dear and Honored Father,

Gratia D. N. S. C. sit semper vobiscum.

A month ago I sent you a somewhat lengthy Account of the trouble in our House of St. Louis. I told you then that I wanted nothing, but that I felt it my duty to make a statement. I have now changed my mind, and for very good reasons. Things strange and (to me) almost incredible, have come to pass. I have been informed that Fr. Kreuz has returned to the Community, and that Fr. Kenick is now Superior of the House in St. Louis. It is not difficult to draw from these two facts a very natural Conclusion viz the strongest possible condemnation of the part played by me in the deplorable trouble. However, I do not complain precisely of this very severe sentence. But I do object and



most solemnly protest against any verdict  
in word or work, against me, without a  
Trial - Examination or rigorous Investigation  
before an impartial Judge and Jury, appointed  
by You. Testimony to be given and taken  
(if necessary) under the solemnity of an oath.

This is a natural right - of which no man  
may deprive me, and which I have no in-  
clination to forgo, but, on the contrary, as a  
man, as a Priest, as a member of the Commu-  
nity I am bound to maintain.

Need I remind you of the advice of the  
Wise-Man (Ecc<sup>l</sup> xi. 7); of our Lord "Do to others"  
and of St Vincent in his Conference in Charity?  
And, indeed I can't conceal my astonishment  
that I should be thus, unsolicited, compelled  
to write in my own defence.

Put yourself  
in my place, and ask yourself, how  
you would like to be thus treated! A great  
Disturbance was raised in our House, when  
I was Superior; I charged the evil to the  
intermeddling of Sister Sots of the Daughters  
of Charity. The jealousies and national prejudices  
of Father Kenick and Krentz, their combination  
against me; and finally the silence (I would  
almost say the countenance and encouragement)



of the Visitor towards, their Confession. Moreover  
I gave facts to substantiate the Charge. Now  
the question is. are the facts true? I am pre-  
pared to substantiate (if necessary under oath)  
these facts. If my opponents are innocent of  
the Charges, they have nothing to fear from a  
rigorous investigation.

Finally I claim to be  
judged by our Holy rules, which I have en-  
deavored to keep both in the letter and in the  
spirit for 26 years. You are our highest  
Authority; to you I appeal. In the meantime  
Your action and advice will be patiently  
and confidently awaited by.

Yours, unwaveringly thos. devoted Servt & Confidant  
M. G. Richardson  
Esq

P.S.  
Your most welcome letter of 6<sup>th</sup> inst is  
just received. I am very grateful, and I  
beg a further favor of a special attention to  
this note. I did not inform you sooner, be-  
cause I naturally expected that the Visitor  
would notify you; and I have a strong  
repugnance to parade my grievances to the

distant authorities, and the more so  
 since the Visitor was well aware of the  
 difficulty, but would not afford me  
 the least satisfaction. Indeed the whole  
 affair, has caused me so much pain  
 distress and disgust, that I can never  
 forget it. Yours &c M. R. Wren

*Prisognan interogis, in vituperis gremgum: et amn inter-*  
*gavis, ompe jute.*



XXVI

Richardson

St Vincent's College  
Cape Girardeau, Nov 17/79

Rev. A. Féal Sup. Gen.  
of the Congregation of the Mission  
95, Rue de Serres Paris  
France

+

Rev and dear Father.

Gratia De, sit semper nobiscum! Your letter of Oct 7<sup>th</sup> reached me in due time. In reply I would first say that Simplicity—first of the virtues composing our spirit has always had for me a special attraction. This virtue as illustrated in the character and life of our Holy Founder makes me love, cherish, and prefer the Family of St Vincent to all other orders (in the Church) however greater and illustrious. Hence I hold in horror, and loathe, as a very leprosy all double-dealing duplicity dissimulation hypocrisy which I am sorry to say largely leavened the late & much lamented trouble in St. Louis; and constituted the chief ingredient of the bitterness of my experience as mentioned in your letter.

I read your letter again and again and I must confess, in all candor and simplicity, that I cannot imagine any thing more unsatisfactory. You have rejected, indeed you have not even noticed, my petition. This, in truth, is the easiest way to end



XXVI Richardson

Cape Girardeau

Novitiate of the  
Sisters of Mercy: Catawissa  
Franklin Co. Mo. U. S. Feby 14/93.

Most Honored Father.  
Gratia D. N. sit semper nobiscum.

During the  
Summer of the year 1891, I  
had occasion <sup>to write</sup> to you concern-  
ing some important matters  
connected with the House  
of St Vincent's parish, St  
Louis of which I had been  
Superior for more than 7  
years.

Your replies to my

letters were so unsatisfactory, that I fully determined never again to trouble you.

But I have been obliged to change my mind; and now I come again to you, not indeed with much confidence, that you will pay the least attention to what I say; but feeling bound in conscience to make a final effort to obtain some redress, and to tell you, that M. Smith has (in quantum potest) put me out of the Community.

We may have informed you that I left of my own accord. I tell you no: I did not leave, I don't want to leave and I will not leave for M. Smith or any other man.

.3.

Is M. Smith infallible? is M. Smith impeccable? will truth and honor and honesty die with M. Smith? no! then M. Smith may make a mistake and to correct a mistake it will hardly do to confine ~~you~~ your investigations to Mr Smith's side of the case: audiat ut altera pars.

In January 1892 I was taken very ill - sick unto death. I declined going to the hospital in charge of the good Sister who caused so much trouble at St Vincent's during my Superiorship. For this I was subjected to the greatest indignities, excommunicated "vitandus". I refused to submit to the degradation, and



4

as M. Smith would not hear I was obliged to return to the Hospital of the Sisters of Mercy where I had recovered from my sickness. M. Smith refused to pay my expenses at the hospital, refused to communicate with me, refused to send me the "Ordo."

You may, perhaps, tell me that I should have gone where the Superiors wanted me to go. Most certainly I should and would under other circumstances but considering the injury done to me by that Sister I could not think of entering her house.

And again - is M. Smith bound to obey the Common Rules? Most certainly - well, M. Smith disobeyed many times Rule Cap XI. Par XI. "Sine quodam"

licentia. Which <sup>of us</sup> is more to  
 blame. Mr Smith, giving orders,  
 (underhand and unknown  
 to me as Superior of the house)  
 to the subjects under my charge  
 to give retreats &c to the Sis.  
 of Charity - thereby, encourage-  
 ing disobedience, disrespect for  
 rule and for Superiors &c &c or  
 I, for refusing to place myself  
 (in my feeble health) in the  
 house where these troubles began?  
 Must the rules, be of one mea-  
 ning for the Visitor and another  
 for the Local Superior? Now, I  
 ask, can any one govern. Keep  
 rule or order where the rule  
 is thus flagrantly violated?  
 Perhaps you don't believe  
 this, that Mr Smith could or  
 would do such a thing?

6.

I do not ask you to believe anything: I do not want any favors from Mr Smith or even from you: I appealed to you three times. two years ago you did not even condescend to notice my complaints. True you gave me your blessing and a little pious advice, and told me to love the Community. Well, I could have appreciated your blessing and advice, had you done me a little common justice.

Now I ask not as a favor but demand as a right one of three propositions: 1<sup>st</sup> an impartial investigation of my case, by your Representative either from Paris, or by three aged and impartial conferees in this country: and to the



7

Verdict of these representatives  
I am ready to concede to sub-  
mit: or.

2<sup>nd</sup> If you refuse this fair  
request: then I demand a re-  
asonable compensation. I have  
devoted the best part of my  
life to the service of the Com-  
munity, and now, with im-  
paired health & ~~wealth~~, I find my-  
self thrown out, poor and de-  
stitute. St Vincent would  
not do that: or.

3<sup>rd</sup>: If you refuse a compen-  
sation there is left for me nothing  
but an appeal to the civil courts  
In any case I hope always to be

Your humble and unworthy Clerk  
Wm Richardson  
Esq

P.S. If you answer this please write in  
French. I prefer your French to your English

Prov. des Etats-Unis, O. ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE



— AND —  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,

Mac Veil.

Cape Girardeau Mo., March 17<sup>th</sup> 1894

Very Rev. and thrice honored Father,  
Your blessing, if you please!

Will you please give me permission to go to Ireland in vacation to see my dear old mother? My father died just after my ordination (June '92) and I had not the opportunity of seeing him. My mother is growing old & feeble. She has lost the use of one eye and she is afraid, and so am I, that if we do not see each other this summer we shall never have that pleasure on this side the grave. She is so urgent in her solicitations to see me and her reasons are so good that my superiors last year, Frs. Byrne & Nugent, advised me to ask permission and to go to see her then, if possible, but I put it off as long as I could.

I have consulted the Very Rev. Visitor, T. J. Smith. He instructed me to write to you, and my present superior, The Rev. J. J. Murray, told me that I should appreciate Fr. Smith's kindness and comply immediately with his instructions.



## ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE

—AND—

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.



Cape Girardeau Mo., 189

The voyage across the Atlantic can be made in five or six days and with very little expense which of course I will defray myself.

You can afford my poor widowed mother a pleasure she has looked forward to for years and having enjoyed will die content. As to myself my only earthly desire at present is to see her before she dies.

Hoping you will give this my first, earnest and humble request some consideration, a speedy & favorable answer, I remain, dear & thrice honored Father,

Your devoted and humble servant.  
Francis McNeill, S.S.C.M.





M.

Maison

Province

Date

Objet

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., Apr 18<sup>th</sup> 1901

Very Rev. A. Fiat. O.M. Sup. Gen.  
*Gratus Dei Notus est semper nobiscum.*

Very Rev. & dear Father,

We are seven in number,  
 Priests: Revs A. Verma, E. M. Hopkins &  
 myself; One Student & three Brothers  
 Coadjutors. Fr Verma is the most-ex-  
 emplary, though greatly afflicted and  
 above 81 years of age he is among the  
 first in the Chapel for meditation.

Fr Hopkins is the Procurator and  
 attends to the parish with me; he is  
 faithful but "Amicus amicis inimicus  
 pugnaque" a little close like most-  
 procurators, but not to a serious  
 fault. In view the financial welfare  
 of the house, Brothers are faithful, one  
 is over 84 yrs of age but most-exemplary

CONGREGATION MISSIONS

in rising & calling the Community - at  
 4 O'clk. I am, I fear, rather weak  
 in character & somewhat given to  
 human respect: still out of entire  
 prudence I have refrained from correcting  
 every defect - here. Relying on the Authority  
 of the Visitor and the good council and  
 advice of Father Verriena. have brought -  
 about - the Domestic Council Conference  
 every week & the reading of the Scriptures  
 & Martyrology, at meals. Cannot  
 have reading during the whole report -  
 as the Brothers' Eyes are bad, and the  
 Student - must - eat - & then have a little  
 recreation before class time.  
 We are living in peace & observe silence  
 better now. We pray that we may soon  
 have another priest; Fr Verriena  
 is too infirm to do anything but - say  
 mass for the Community. Fr Hopkins  
 & I have to attend to the parish &  
 the Convent - (Sisters of Loretto)





## ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

M. Schuchart

Cape Girardeau, Mo., \_\_\_\_\_ 190

On Sundays one has to duplicate.  
 During the week one says Mass in the  
 Church and the other at the Convent.  
 For Haptin's looks after the two  
 forms, the student & P. the College.  
 - 8 day day pupils - 'tis too much  
 but we must be patient - till more are  
 ordained. I pray your most-honored  
 Father remember me in your prayers,  
 placed in so responsible & so delicate  
 a position at the same time so useful -  
 May God grant me the grace to stand true  
 to principle and assent - the spirit - of  
 our Rules & Constitution.

I did not write at the last - "quarter  
 tense" because I hardly thought - I  
 was to remain Superior. I asked Fr



ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE

CONGREGATION MISSIONS

Bornwell. He said yes. wrote  
 2<sup>d</sup> Gave the Lecture Instructions to preach  
 across the Jubilee & then prepare for  
 a Mission to open here on said  
 Sunday. Rev T. H. Shaw, O.M. of La  
 Salle being the Missionary.

I remain most humbly Father  
 your devoted Son in St Vincent

Jacques Layton S. CM  
 St Vincent's College

Crofton Mission Mo  
 Apr 10. 1901

M.

Maison

Province

Date

Objet

Nov. Dec. 2.



ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., Die 4 Junii 1901  
 R<sup>me</sup> A. Fiat C.M. Superiori Generali  
 Gratia Dni Nostri sit semper nobiscum.  
 Honoratissime Pater

Juxta prescriptiones salutares, die  
 21<sup>a</sup> Novembri 1900 exoratus, & pistolam  
 tibi iterum mitto. Eadem fere dicenda sunt,  
 excipe tamen quod procurator aut  
 minus pugnax est, aut ego majus fortis  
 Vir est laboriosus et vigilantissimus, nil  
 de eo dicendum amplius, nisi ad  
 majorem Dei gloriam laborat, spero  
 quidem eum nos aere aliud citius  
 liberaturum esse.

Rev. Flynn, diaconus, ad domum  
 Barrinsem hodie prosequitur ut  
 recessum ad Sacerdotii promotionem  
 illic incipiat.

Re, Veruna, octogenarius, mea in.





ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 190

infirmum, verecundia juvenili,  
adjutor meus fortissimus, corporali  
sua infirmitate, verbis omnibus  
Exemplum patientiae longuinitatisque  
praebet. Fratres Coadjutores, regalis  
fideles sunt, sed non omnino

Choritate flagrant; Sence sunt  
et infirmi, tempore opportuno eos  
admonemus. Regulae omnes in usu  
sunt, Excipe Coll <sup>em</sup> Spirituales, seu  
repositum die Dominica, fena 4<sup>a</sup> habetur  
et lectionem toto tempore praevidi caenaeque  
Attamen Sacerdos Junior Mortuologiam  
et Scripturarum lectionem facit, deinde  
Silentium habetur, Officium praeterea  
Divinum in choro non habetur  
Ex quo procurator in praedictis frequen-  
tius est - et Rev Verrina in infirmitate





ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., \_\_\_\_\_ 190  
3

Sua in dies succrescente in cubiculo  
detentus est. Ad Sup. localis officium  
a Visitatore formaliter designatus sum.  
Scio me esse indignum; non sunt  
mihi virtutes, astutus, sapientia,  
prudencia stabilis etc. — facere  
non possum melius quam optime,  
Non possum gratia Deum mihi  
sanitate corporali et spirituali ditare  
ad ex precem. Ora pro me.

Ad <sup>issimus</sup> serous tunc in Deum  
Julianus Lantou S.S.C.M.  
Opus Collegium St. Vincentii  
Cape Girardeau  
Mo.



ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., Die 22<sup>a</sup> Febr 1890

Honoratissimo Patri

Gratia Dei Nostri et semper nobiscum

Accepi quos libros ad me misisti  
pro fide gratias tibi ago, atque tuis in  
negotio multisque precibusque uti credere  
oportet, precor te me tui curi non esse,

Ad officium: 1<sup>o</sup> de surgendo in hunc  
decendum, 2<sup>o</sup> Scripturae et Martyrologia  
tempore Convocationis legentur, et  
Silentium observatur Opti non sunt  
dus fuerunt mei ad legendum,

Voluntas est quoniam puerum cum bus ponere  
3<sup>o</sup> Non habeo advocatum procuratorem  
circa meum, cibum caeteraque huiusmodi

4 Omnia juxta regulas si excipias re-  
stitutionem orationis die dominica

5 de Conferentia Theol. domestica  
adhuc non facta est,





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ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., \_\_\_\_\_ 190

6 De praescriptionibus visitationis: non est  
circumdandum tempore statuto legendi

1' Chantos successerit vel puto.

Rev. Veneris edam qui finit - Rev. Hoptkins  
Zelus: Rev. Joe Litley ad Los Angeles  
Cal, unum est - loco opus suffecit a Scholasticis

Rev. Schultz (Diaconus)

Fratres coadjutores valent.

Accepi notificationem formalem a Visitatore  
de Conc. Provinciali prox. diei 27<sup>o</sup> Aprilis

Apud Barrusum (Perryville, Mo) habituro  
proceos fundimus juxta tui Car. litterae Tuorum  
Deus dat nobis quam pacem!

Ad tuas proceas me et omnes mecum commendo.

Servus tuus cum obsequio hominis in Deo

A St. Vincentis.

Jacobus Layton O.S.C.M.





ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

M. Verrina

Maison

Province

Date

Objet

Cape Girardeau, Mo., Novembre 7 1902

St. Wino occis. Lecture de l'abbé

Coy De Longueville

Monsieur et très honoré Père

Notre benediction, s'il vous plaît!

En lisant votre aimable circulaire, qui vous faisait connaître les délibérations de l'Assemblée Générale, je me suis réjoui de ce que tous les membres de cette Assemblée ont cru de ne pas acquiescer à votre pétition d'être déchargé d'un fardeau qui est très lourd, il est vrai, mais qui tend au bien-être spirituel de notre Congrégation. Nous tâcherons de vous le rendre plus léger par notre obéissance et notre fidélité à bien observer nos saintes Règles. Votre circulaire me rappela en même temps que je n'ai pas encore accompli, cette année, le devoir de vous écrire en qualité de Consultant.

Ainsi je soumettrai à votre considération quelques remarques sur différents points selon qu'il a été ordonné.

1. On est exact au lever du matin pour faire l'oraison en commun.
2. Il est à regretter qu'on ne puisse avoir la lecture à table faute de lecteur. Cependant on lit l'écriture sainte et le Martyrologe.
3. Notre bon Supérieur agit succéder et fortifier lorsqu'il le faut. Le Procureur s'acquitte bien de son office, même trop bien. Il n'entreprend rien de conséquence sans consulter le Vicaire.
4. Le conseil domestique se rassemble assez régulièrement, la répétition de l'oraison, les conférences et le chapitre ont lieu toutes les semaines.
5. Les conférences des cas de conscience ne sont pas encore établies. Mon Supérieur me dit qu'il vous a écrit à ce sujet et qu'il vous a représenté les raisons pour lesquelles elles n'ont eu lieu.





ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., \_\_\_\_\_ 190

6. La lecture des ordonnances du Vinteur est un point négligé.
7. Grace à Dieu la charité et l'union règnent parmi nous, cependant il y aurait quelque chose à désirer quelque fois en parlant des absents.

Voilà à peu près, mon très honoré Père, les réponses aux questions proposées.

Veuillez me croire toujours

Votre enfant tout dévoué

A. Verrina J. S. C. M.





## St. Vincent's College.

H. Layton

Natus Cape Girardeau, Mo., Dies Jan<sup>21</sup> 1903

Provincia

Date

Objet

Ep<sup>us</sup> Mis<sup>so</sup>cc<sup>is</sup>. P<sup>ro</sup>ter  
Honoratissimo P<sup>ro</sup>ter.

Re me  
Rev<sup>erendissime</sup> Pater  
Gratia Dei Nostri et semper acerbissimi

Quatuordecim Mense  
Decembris litteras tibi scribere  
debui, non potui vero propter  
infirmitatem

In primis non est mihi aliquid  
in specie praeter ordinem consuetum

1<sup>o</sup> Surgitur de ista et nihil amplius  
quod desideraret

2<sup>o</sup> Morbologiae et Simplicia Sacra  
inter primarium lecta sunt. Quae  
valentissime observantur et

rationibus jam allatis. Perit enim  
est qui legere possit. seu cuique  
licet.

3<sup>o</sup> "Bursor" cum officium recte  
peragitur.

4<sup>o</sup> Beneficentia <sup>seu</sup> gratioris affectus.



## St. Vincent's College.

2

Cape Girardeau, Mo., 190

forma 18 habet, a legumato tamen  
(seuclau aucies) Conferentia  
Sti Vincentii legitur.

5.<sup>o</sup> Theol. Conferentia videtur instituta  
est quia numerus pauciores sumus  
et eius ratio praetera impleta esse  
videtur in quantum disputatur  
singulis hebdomadibus plus  
minusque. Eiusque Visitationis  
Causae, quaestiones, Diocesana  
Memoranda formae prius a nobis  
arguenda ita ut bis in anno  
nunc Conferentia habuisse decendum  
est.  
6.<sup>o</sup> Praescriptiones Visitationis non  
leguntur quia (ut venis dicunt)  
illa non mandat. Liber Visitationis  
speciales praescriptiones non ostendit  
7.<sup>o</sup> Chorales fratrum, vultum externa  
Eadem qualis semper fuit,  
Aertius quod plerumque





St. Vincent's College.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., \_\_\_\_\_ 190

<sup>3</sup>  
 in pace vivimus, Procurator  
 suo officio bene fungitur  
 Nos omnes, si vero, cum  
 fratribus coadjutoribus te  
 gratulamur. Pax Dei et tibi  
 semper.

Servus tuus indignus

Julius Layton S.C.M.  
 Superior





St. Vincent's College.

Reportum.

Cape Girardeau, Mo.,

DIC 11<sup>th</sup> - Mar<sup>4</sup> 1903

Reverendissime ac Humilissime Pater;

Oratio Domini Nostri sit semper nobiscum.

Ex statuto tempore non scribendum quia  
aegrotus eram, et alicuius

1<sup>o</sup> De surgendo, hora meditationis etc.  
omnia bene peragenda.

2<sup>o</sup> De lecturis ad auresam, vid. infra.

3<sup>o</sup> De procuratore, de quo ego obligatus  
absolutis adversum eum nihil habebam,  
vel de quo eum virtuosum.

4<sup>o</sup> Papatibus Pratum spiritualia exercitia  
habentur.

5<sup>o</sup> Theol. Conferentia habenda, bis in  
anno, ex iure, Visitationis. materia autem  
eadem quae Sacrosanctum Dioecesanum  
praecedente hebdomada a subis juxta  
formam scripta est - ut inde nos  
bene versati apud Con. Dioecesanam  
evadimus.

6<sup>o</sup> et 7<sup>o</sup> nihil decernendum  
quia ad 6<sup>am</sup> prescriptionem  
Visitatores ad legendum non curantur,  
ad 7<sup>am</sup> autem. Phantasiam facit  
Eadem quae semper fuit. I. E. crescit autem  
non sunt. perita contra eam, frequentius  
Solentur.

2<sup>o</sup> De lectione seu ad Visitatores  
referendum. Et prescriptionem ubi  
erunt. Ex circumstantiis nostris  
presentibus. Sufficit. ut. Sacra Scriptura  
et Moripologia legantur. etiam quod  
Consuetudo non erat. ut. Sacerdos  
legal. Confutatio interrogari. de  
moralibus. Et unum ab eis non inveniri  
nisi. uno nobis Sacerdotibus  
legal. Sive quidem legibus  
moralibus.

Iura per est commutatio  
permanens. humilis servitudo  
J. Rayner 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.



Nov. Dec. 2.



ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Junij 901  
 R<sup>me</sup> A. Fiat C.M. Superiori Generali  
 Gratia Domini Nostri sit semper nobiscum.  
 Honoratissime Pater

Juxta prescriptiones salutaris, die 8  
 21<sup>a</sup> Novembris 1900 exoratus, Epistolam  
 tibi iterum mitto. Eadem fere dicenda sunt,  
 excipe tamen quod procurator aut  
 minus pugnax est, aut ego majus fortis  
 Vir est laboriosus et vigilantissimus, nil  
 de eo dicendum amplius, nisi ad  
 maiorem Dei gloriam laborat; spero  
 quidem cum nos aere aliud citius  
 liberaturus esse.

Rev. Flynn, diaconus, ad domum  
 Barrum hodie prosequitur ut  
 recessum ad Sacerdotii promotionem  
 illic incipiat.

Re. Verma, octogesimo, mea mi.





ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., <sup>2</sup> ————— 190

infirmum, verecundia juvenili,  
 adiutor meus fortissimus, corporali  
 sua infirmitate verbis omnibus  
 exemplum patientiae longuinitatisque  
 praebet. Fratres coadjutores regulis  
 fideles sunt, sed non omnino  
 charitate flagrantes; Senes sunt  
 et infirmi, tempore opportuno eos  
 adiuvant. Regulae omnes in usu  
 sunt, Excipe Coll <sup>em</sup> Spirituale, seu  
 repetitum die Dominica, feria 4<sup>a</sup> habetur  
 et lectio in toto tempore praedii caenaeque  
 Attamen sacerdos junior Mortuologiam  
 et Scripturarum lectionem facit, deinde  
 Silentium habetur; Officium praeterea  
 Divinum in choro non habetur  
 : Ex quo procurator in praedii frequen-  
 -tius est - et Rev. Vermina in infirmitate



ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., \_\_\_\_\_ 190  
3

Sua in dies succrescente in cubiculo  
detentus est. Ad Sup. localis officium  
a Visitatore formaliter designatus sum.  
Scio me esse indignum; non sunt  
mihi virtutes, actus, sapientia,  
prudencia stabilis etc. — facere  
non possum melius quam optime.  
Non possum quin Deum sancti  
sanitate corporali et spirituali ditare  
ad exprecem. Ora pro me.

Ad <sup>issimus</sup> seruos tunc in Deum.

Julianus Layton O.S.C.M.  
Superior Collegium St. Vincentii  
Cape Girardeau  
Mo.



CONGREGATIO MISSIONIS



St. Vincent's College.

N.

Maison

Province

Date

Objet

Etah-ning

Cape Girardeau, Mo.,

Die 1<sup>a</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1909

aumur

Red<sup>one</sup> et. Humilissimo Patre,  
 Gratia Dei Nostri sit semper vobiscum.

Si rationem reddendi tempus  
 statutum praevisionem facilius esse  
 fieri quam duos hebdomadas obline  
 facturum cura est.

Noster Amabilis pater. Dominus  
 nocte ult<sup>a</sup> apud nos habitavit — ad  
 civitatem St<sup>i</sup> Louisi per viam  
 profectus est. Crastina die ad  
 Dominionum seu hujus Provinciae  
 Ducum, Perryvillensem iter  
 prosecuturum est.

Domus rationem reportare cum  
 communicatione telegraphica me  
 certiorum facientium de quo ad oculum  
 accipiam, unde vos prosequor;  
 1<sup>a</sup> DE Surgendo; — Omnes & lecti  
 sum exarant hunc soluta. Si Deus



in finem, ratione vacante, non-  
nunquam excipitur.

2° Lectio in Refectorio. Sacrae Scripturae et Martyrologium uti dixi.  
Si vero possibile fiat: prius ad-  
venientibus lectio erit.

3° "Bursar" seu Procurator summus  
salis peragil-officium.

4° Mentalis Orationis repetitio.

Adi seu feria 14<sup>a</sup> fit: penult  
vero mense. Conferentia S<sup>ti</sup> Vincentii  
semitarum legitur.

5° Conf. Theologica: bis in anno  
ex instructionibus Visitatoris, Verum  
Conferentiam omittimus, eo quod  
unus & sacerdotibus substantia  
negotiorum causa obfuit: alter  
infirmus.

6° Praescriptum Visitatoris legendae  
Ex lib. Visitatoris quod legendum  
non invenitur.

7° Choritas fratrum: Conversato



St. Vincent's College.

Cape Girardeau, Mo.,

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De rebus perennique (Euphorbia)  
provinciae aliquando habitant,  
et facto, frequentius de domo nostra  
destituta.

Rev. Schultz a Visitatore in aliam  
domum, scil. Los Angeles Cal,  
missus fuit. Et alium Sacerdotem  
Rev. Blechle recentem ordinatum  
recepit.

Unum citius a Domino deprecor,  
scil. quamprimum spectrum seu  
larva huius Collegii pulsa sit,  
nempe praeter sustentaculum morale,  
atque duo vel tres sacerdotes (non  
paucis manibus transiunt) aut  
habemus, aut amodo habebimus  
et cunctis declaramus Collegium  
duo portas clausum fuisse.



uti est, nec Collegium, nec Porochia  
 est, sil-vel Collegium et Vincenti  
 viribus praeditum. vel sil- Porochia  
 similis Clippacae (Sp. Vincentii)  
 quia juniores, - pueri, - ac senes  
 in perditione diabolus enpit-  
 (sentis videtur), vel sil- utrumque  
 sed utrumque

~~Rebas~~ Res istas Vincenti de cloro  
 Opus aliquid vocaturum sive una  
 Grima patientia possessorum sive  
 Conscientiam perplexam depulsurum.  
 Et aliquid a Domino petii ut ego  
 in loco subjectionis quia  
 officio superioris idoneus non sum  
 Nec Scientia humana, nec Scientia  
 Sanctorum, Scientia humana quia  
 per me nescire. Scientia Sanctorum  
 quia in Acedia semine vertere me  
 sentis. Alqui fecit - valentes Dei  
 Ego humilis servus tuus

Res et. Humani  
 A. Frit.

J. Layton C.M.  
 Superior





St. Vincent's College.

*un petit mot*

H. Verriac Cape Girardeau, Mo., Nov. 12 1903  
 Maison  
 Province St. V. ouis.  
 Date Monsieur et très honoré Père  
 Objet *Compte rendu* Votre bénédiction, s'il vous plaît!

C'est avec plaisir que je saisis cette occasion d'accomplir mon devoir de consultant pour vous présenter mes sentiments de sympathie à cause de l'ouragan qui a frappé dernièrement la France et qui doit avoir <sup>causé</sup> votre cœur paternel de saigner et les âmes qui aiment Dieu d'être affligées. On dit qu'en France il n'y a plus de foi, mais il est incroyable qu'il n'y ait pas de foi chez une nation qui envoie constamment ses missionnaires évangéliser les peuples infidèles, s'opposer à l'erreur et par là faire une guerre acharnée aux puissances infernales. Outre cela il y a encore en France sans doute bon nombre d'âmes d'élite,

forcièrement pieuses qui ramèneront le  
 calme en apaisant par leurs prières  
 ferventes et leurs larmes la colère  
 de Dieu qui en ce moment châtie  
 la France pour les péchés dont ses  
 enfants se sont rendus coupables. D'ail-  
 leurs la Très Sainte Vierge, plus puissante  
 que tout l'enfer, qui aime la France  
 parce que la France aime la Très Sainte  
 Vierge, ne permettra pas que l'Union  
 de l'Eglise de <sup>Son</sup> Divin Fils devienne le  
 jouet de l'infidélité. En attendant  
 que le calme se fasse nous prions  
 notre Saint Fondateur, le Grand Bien-  
 faiteur de la France, de continuer  
 à protéger par son intercession  
 les deux maisons-mères de ses chers  
 enfants qui naviguent sur la mer  
 orageuse de ce monde, mais qui vi-  
 vent dans l'espoir d'arriver sains  
 et saufs dans la Patrie avec la grâce  
 de Dieu.





## St. Vincent's College.

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Pour ce qui regarde notre maison je dois dire que nous en sommes au même point où nous étions l'année dernière.

Les Règles sont assez bien observées, mais on peut y trouver des lacunes par ici par là. On est exact au lever à l'heure prescrite et à faire oraison en commun pendant une heure. Le conseil domestique se tient de temps à autre. Les répétitions de l'oraison ont lieu. Pour ce qui est des conférences des cas de conscience le Visiteur a écrit à notre Supérieur de suivre les mêmes cas de conscience choisis pour les conférences ecclésiastiques. On n'a guère l'habitude de lire les ordonnances du Visiteur. À l'égard de l'union fraternelle, elle existe, on est agréable dans nos récréations, on fait sans querelle, mais on manque, quelquefois, quoique rarement, à la charité.



envers les absents. Notre Supérieur, qui aime la régularité, désirerait bien que l'on fit la lecture à Table, mais il n'y a pas de lecteur. Il essaya un frère coadjuteur déjà un peu âgé et le seul qui puisse la faire, mais au bout de quelque temps il a dû quitter à cause de ses yeux. On lit l'Écriture Sainte et Martyrologe et depuis la retraite annuelle on a recommencé à prendre nos repas en silence à l'exception des jours de congé. Voilà, Très honoré Père ce qu'il y a à remarquer concernant notre maison.

Il faut espérer que votre Seigneur écoutera les prières de ses élus et qu'il se laissera fléchir par leurs gémissements. Dans cet espoir je suis  
Très honoré Père

Votre Vieux mais tout dévoué Esclave  
A. Verrina J. S. C. M.



N.

Maison

Province

Date

Objet

accusatione receptione in Patriam

Layton  
ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Etats Unis

Cape Girardeau, Mo., 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 1904

Reverendissime Pater.

Grazia Dei Nostri sit. Perfectionem  
Honoratissime Pater!Tempore Statuto Scribere non potui  
quia mater mea in periculo mortis  
inciderat et iter ad domum meamCum dolore mea facere tentavimus  
postea egomet incido in morbum1<sup>o</sup> Viri soliti surgendi; omnes

fratres surgunt. Sacerdotes vero et

fratres (qui) coram tribus hebdomadis

aegroti fuerunt. hinc aliquae irreg-

ularitates sed cum ratione

2<sup>o</sup> Lectio ad Mensam. Scripturae et

Meteorologiae propter silentium a Mensa

propter infirmitatem Sacerdos. juvenis

qui legit frequenter non legitur

3<sup>o</sup> "Buror" seu procurator Patris Sacer-

porum officium.





ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

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(2)

4<sup>o</sup> Reputatus Antonius perinde in hoc  
Armada et omnia exercitia alia  
iuxta regulas implenda sunt;

5<sup>o</sup> Conf. Theol. bis in anno cum  
approbatione Visitatoris circumstantiis  
pensatis;

6<sup>o</sup> Prescriptions Visitandi legendae  
non lectae fuerint quia non prescriptum  
fuit

7<sup>o</sup> Caritas fraterna. Antonius omnibus  
pensatis caritatem fraternam habemus  
et spero Deum nos benedicturum  
et nos omnes magis magisque Deum  
omnes amicos qui nihil facere  
quam facere debemus. Et alteri  
alterius cura portamus.

Ubiqueque benevolens ope in Deum  
et St<sup>o</sup> Vincentis peruenit, J. Layton, S. J.





Layton  
St. Vincent's College.

Ireland

Cape Girardeau, Mo., ~~Nov 24~~ <sup>Nov 24</sup> 1904

Reverende et Honorabilissime Patre,  
Gratia Domini Nostri sit semper vobiscum.  
Statutum est. tempus te  
faciendi certiorum de rebus domesticis  
et continuam juxta formam consuetam  
reddo.

1<sup>a</sup> De hora surgendi. Omnes fideliter  
surrexerunt nisi nonnulli in-  
firmi, rationibus sufficientibus quos  
plurimique etiam dederunt, quoad  
tempus modumque meditationis prae-  
regulam nihil fuit.

2<sup>a</sup> De lectione ad reverendam ut tibi  
jam jamque scripsi, scripturas Mar-  
tyrologium et Silentium hibernum  
Si excipias mensas. Nov. et Feb.  
quibus consuectas lectiones in  
Silentium verbinde perfectum frequenter  
attenti non sumus. Et ratio, tres vel

quatuor propter infirmitatem  
multos absent, et mihi videtur  
me fuisse aliquantulum negligentem

3<sup>a</sup> Procurator seu "Fusor" postea  
satis superque suis implet officio

4<sup>a</sup> Oratoris mentalis repetitis feria  
quarta regulenter habetur. Semel  
anno S<sup>ci</sup> Vincentii Conferentia si  
excipias recessus supra allatos  
eisdem rationibus

5<sup>a</sup> Conferentia Theologica bis in anno  
pro presente, de arundato Visitatoria  
ex rationibus et propositis facienda est  
Conferentia, Veruo. praetermissi eo  
quod, quidam pueri & schola febri  
pulmonica detinebatur, et. de hac  
nocte nos eam vigilare fecerit  
de cunctis alia multaque  
negotia prohibemus - agimus  
Eam habuerimus et eadem Relatio  
Visitatori facta est.





## St. Vincent's College.

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6<sup>a</sup> prescriptiones etc - Visitationis cullos  
legendae habemus.

1<sup>a</sup> Chontos fraternitas quales (ut puto)  
subique inuicem atque sunt  
fornis mundatum melius nos  
obscure fere et debent. Et -  
vultu videtur. digna esse sequentia  
quae dicantur Procurator, omnibus  
multis gravatur. Scil. praediorum  
Cura, unum, una nullia fororum  
alterum vero & regius duo distat;  
praediorum domorum reparationibus  
et Ecclesiae, etc. et ego cum ipso  
conjunctus sum proclivibus  
ita ut de praediis atque proclina  
(Centum familiarum circiter)  
ad procuratorem specificae pertinet  
ad me vero. Sociumque sac. juvenem



de Collegio, de infirmis, de quæ  
 parochia magna ex parte tempore  
 æstivo pertinet. Moxim Collegii  
 cura mihi est. quod "Joles  
 honores litterarios dat quales  
 quovis Collegio, universitate  
 Deumond litterarum in State  
 (Missouri) vel in statibus ubique  
 forderatorum dantur !!! "Ex Charta  
 Corporationibus, Nomina et res  
 qualimodo necessaria sunt quæ  
 pene Texas solvenda sunt.  
 Septem <sup>res.</sup> sacerdotes mecum successivo  
 fuerunt. Ob anno 1800 - 1904.  
 Ex qua diveretate officiorum,  
 Manoncriorum imitatione, vexationibus  
 quæ quæversus pteulantia supi-  
 morum Chonssimorum nil mirum  
 si contra Chontatem subinde peccatus  
 lugendum! Attamen spero  
 an adgutorium. Quam sacerdotem  
 stabilem obtenturum. Et - Quam



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vestros potentia possidet binus  
 Facilem Sacerdotis mutationem et  
 oblati Scholasticorum in compensatione  
 qua potius nobis gravatur quam  
 auxiliator certis verbis vincitori  
 indicovi. Operis Operumque Almi  
 Sacerdotem nobis ~~suaviter~~ sub-  
 ventum esse.

J. Layton S. S. C.

Rev. A. F. H. - Sop. Genialis  
 Caeq. N. M.





St. Vincent's College.

Maison *Easton*  
 Proxima  
 Cape Girardeau, Mo., *Dec 20 Dec 1904*  
 Date  
 Object

*Res am et Honoratissimo Pater*

*Gratia Dini Nobis sal. Semper amicum,*

*Tibi Epistolam de rebus domesticis seu*  
*Caloric domus scribo. —*

1<sup>o</sup>. Hora surgendi: omnes Confratres exacte  
 surgunt, et surrexerunt si excipio unum  
 — Nos docentem quem a Usulatore re-  
 prehensum, meliorem frugem nunc praestitum  
 fuisse videtur. Et tunc ipse exigitur cum  
 suis proprio perennitatem sua

2<sup>o</sup> Pueri hoc in cum numerarios sunt —

Et ego lectorem duxi ad gastoculum  
 primum et Coenae cum satisfactione

3<sup>o</sup> Bursar, seu Procurator deo salis amplius  
 Officio

4<sup>o</sup> Oratoris recitatio scripta, simul in hoc  
 — Annua habetur, si excipio unum unum  
 Es quod hic peractae sunt. Tempus ideo Sacrae  
 Missionis, Jubilaeum, et mortuus est Pater





St. Vincent's College

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A. Vercina

5<sup>o</sup> Conferentia Theologica: bis in anno  
 instructione Vinitatens, attamen tempore  
 Autumni prothabui exercitum propter  
 meam vexationem detestandam turbationemque

- Neo Sacerdos alius, cui domus non  
 placet - advenit - vidit - et abiit

6<sup>o</sup> Praescriptiones Vinitatens nullas habemus  
 legendas

7 Chorus Paterna. Aestus gradu esse  
 quo haec sunt ferociter: - Aliquando tamen  
 factus coadjuvatus verba cum proceratibus  
 habent, istae vero querelae ex infirmate  
 Aestatus parte Coadjuvatorum procedunt,  
 Et hic et illic quidem subterfugium sunt -  
 unde congregetur naturale Relapsum  
 seu subterfugium eruptiones in nubibus  
 Obierunt nec verbo fuclagus altercatum  
 nec aliquem vocaverunt,

Ego in alia Epistola Suffragium  
 missi, scil. Mortis Res<sup>a</sup> A. Vercina,  
 mihi omne exoptavit, - Confestim



**St. Vincent's College.**

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et quoniam primum te de suis suffragiis  
certum facere. Cumque & per te cum  
omnium fidelium per misericordiam dei  
requiescant in pace, Amen.  
Nos cum tibi tuoque gratias  
actas D. N. G. C. volumus et in  
amore pro Christi & proque nostris  
immaculatae permanemus.

J. Adams, Lytton, Ont.





St. Vincent's College.

M. Layton

Maison

Province

Cape Girardeau, Mo., June 24<sup>th</sup> 1905

Very Rev. Father Fial - O.M. Sup. Gen.  
 The grace of Our Lord be with us forever.  
 Most Reverend Father,

I am a little behind time  
 in my quarterly communication this  
 on account of having to prepare the children  
 for their First Holy Communion on  
 Pentecost Sunday & then <sup>beginning</sup> pre-  
 parations for a Retreat to be given to  
 Our Sisters. Now that it is opened  
 & I see my way through I hasten  
 to write you the letter.

1<sup>st</sup> As to living & morning prayers:-

There nothing to say. All comply with  
 this duty - except sometimes the sick  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading at Table:- We had reading  
 at Table till our school (College)  
 closed & boys went home.  
 As we now have no one to read



We have no evening but generally,  
 silence. Sometimes we talk a little  
 especially at noon at which time there  
 are but two (the procurator being at  
 the farms) or three present. The Old  
 Brothers come to eat table. At supper  
 we generally keep silence.

3 The Procurator fulfills his duties  
 well, so nothing remains to be desired

4 We have a Conference once a week  
 on the Const. Rules. & about once  
 a month read a Conference of St. Paul -  
 but this was neglected several times  
 on account of two or three of the  
 members being sick

5. These Conferences. We are to have them  
 twice a year by a regulation of the  
 Visitor. but this Spring I pushed it  
 over, two of us had to participate  
 in the Diocesan Conference & we  
 disputed the questions during the time  
 of recreation, instead of former

## St. Vincent's College.



*Natale per Montanum*

Cape Girardeau, Mo.,

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hence I thought the end of the road was  
obtained.

6. As regards the regulations made  
at the visitations held at intervals  
we have no prescriptions of this nature.

7. I think we live generally in fraternal  
union among ourselves. We do sometimes  
fail of great charity, more especially, &  
in a matter to be regretted, by speaking  
of the Community-affairs, & the State  
of this house, but I think we have  
all done penance for this & try <sup>never</sup> ~~never~~

to say anything more but take things  
as they come. I have nothing more  
to commend, except to say for  
myself that I know that I am  
not qualified for my office -  
Superior, I hope & trust I may be  
changed from this office, & become



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a subject; I am the first fruit of the  
Western Province, was hurried through the  
course as soon as possible & had to  
shoulder responsibilities which required  
more knowledge better judgement & more  
mature years. I hope & pray that  
I may have the peace & security of  
living to God in secret under the  
direction of a Superior.

Let all unite in wishing you

the consolations of the Holy Spirit -

Your Obedient

Samuel J. Layton M. S.

Very Rev Father Fr. C. M. S. S. G.



Occidentale 22 sept. 1905 Cape Girardeau

Rapport à l'occasion des 4 Semps

Mr. Layton

1° Rever. Vous sont prompts à se lever et à se rendre à la chapelle pour la prière

2° Nous n'avons pas pu avoir la lecture à table depuis que les enfants nous ont quittés pour les vacances. Nos frères coadjuteurs ne pouvaient pas lire étant à moitié aveugles; la plupart du temps il n'y avait que 2 prêtres à table, le procureur étant allé à la ferme et ~~n'ayant pas pu~~ <sup>ne pouvant pas</sup> revenir à temps, nous avons gardé le silence en général. J'espère avoir bientôt la lecture de nouveau, 4 ou 5 de nos enfants reviennent de vacance.

3° Le Procureur veille bien à son office de sorte qu'il n'y a rien à désirer

4 Nous avons répétition d'oraison ou Conférence le mercredi et nous avons une conférence de S. Vincent une fois le mois

5 Nous avons les conférences théologiques

deux fois l'année - les Casus et  
 Questionnaires du Diocèse - avec  
 l'approbation du Vicaire, vu les circonstances  
 présentes.

6 Nous n'avons pas eu de visite depuis  
 longtemps; de là aucunes prescriptions -

7 la charité, je pense, n'est pas violée  
~~pas~~ en choses graves - nous parlons  
 quelquefois de <sup>l'administration</sup> la ~~manche~~ des affaires  
 dans la Province et des dépenses d'argent  
 mais <sup>est</sup> seulement une remarque en passant

Layton



## St. Vincent's College.

Cape Girardeau, Mo.,

Sept<sup>er</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 1905

Very Rev Anthony Hall C.M.S.S.  
 The grace of Our Lord be with us forever.  
 Most Honored Father: -

I have the following report to  
 make since the last Quarter Term: -  
 1<sup>st</sup> Rising: All are prompt to rise &  
 repair to the Chapel for prayers.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> We have not been able to have reading  
 at Table since the pupils left for  
 Vacation. Our Bros. Coads. could not  
 read being half blind; most of the time  
 there were but two priests at table the  
 Procurator having gone down to the farms  
 & not having been able to return in time,  
 hence we generally kept silence, I hope  
 soon to have reading again, our pupils -  
 four or five - are returning from Vacation  
 3<sup>rd</sup> "Bursar" or Procurator attends  
 to his office well, so that there remains



nothing to be desired.

4<sup>th</sup> We have repetition of prayer or  
Conference on Wednesday & had a  
Conference of St. Vincent once a month

5<sup>th</sup> We have Theol. Conf: twice a  
year - The Censos & Quæstionnaire  
of the Diocese - This with the approbation  
of the Visitor in our present circumstances

6<sup>th</sup> We have had no Visitation for a  
long time, hence no regulations or  
prescriptions etc.

7<sup>th</sup> Lastly, I think is not failed against  
to any great extent. We sometimes say  
something about the management of things  
in the Province & the expenditure of money  
but only by passing remarks

I remain as ever in Demand

J. Layton. C. M.

Very Rev Anthony Frat. C. M.,  
Superior General

+ 25 Dec. 1905

M<sup>r</sup> Layton, Julien. Supérieur du -  
Cape Girardeau.

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- 1<sup>o</sup> Nous se lèvent à 4<sup>h</sup> excepté en cas de maladie
- 2<sup>o</sup> On lit à table ou on garde le silence
- 3<sup>o</sup> L'économe remplit bien son devoir
- 4<sup>o</sup> On fait les répétitions ou conférences -  
On a omis fréquemment parce que 3 des confères  
étaient malades - On lit une Conférence  
de St Vincent tous les mois
- 5<sup>o</sup> Par règlement au dernier visitateur nous  
devions avoir Conférences Océologiques 2 fois  
l'an, une semaine avant la réunion  
du Clergé séculier. Cet automne il n'y  
a pas eu de conférence du moins selon  
la forme ordinaire; car nous avons  
conversé sur les sujets durant la  
récréation et nous avons <sup>souge</sup>regardé  
aux ~~les~~ solutions en préparant nos <sup>materiaux</sup>rapports  
pour la réunion du Clergé.
- 6<sup>o</sup> Il n'y a pas eu de visite régulière  
depuis 1897.
- 7<sup>o</sup> La charité fraternelle règne parmi  
nous - De temps en temps quelques  
paroles piquantes sans effet durable -  
Nous parlons quelquefois des affaires de  
la Province - Nous sommes ennuyés

de voir nos œuvres importantes disparaître.  
 On ne fait rien pour améliorer cette maison -  
 Nous n'avons pas les commodités modernes pour  
 un Collège - notre collège ne l'est que de nom -  
 nous avons 4 pensionnaires, 16 demi-pensionnaires  
 et nous pouvons à peine leur donner les  
 soins exigés - à cause des malades, de la  
 paroisse et de l'école paroissiale -

Depuis 1 mois environ nous ne nous  
 sommes pas plaints et nous n'avons pas parlé  
 de cela entre nous : nos sentiments sont :

*Deus providebit*

Je pense que je dois inviter le  
 nouveau visiteur à nous donner la visite  
 et l'informer que l'état présent de la  
 Collège ~~maison~~ <sup>maison</sup> ~~est pas~~ ne fait pas honneur  
 à l'éducation religieuse et à la réputation  
 de la Communauté -

Voeux de bonne année





St. Vincent's College

—AND—

—AND—

Theological Seminary.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., Dec 23rd 1905

Very Rev Anthony Frat C.M.S. G.  
The Grace of God be with us forever.  
My Humble Father:

I have the following report to make:

- 1st All rise at 4.00 AM, except many times two of the Bros Cad, & one of the priests, This is not for want of good will but due to infirmity of body.
- 2nd We have reading at table, when this cannot be had, then silence.
- 3rd The "Bursar" or Procurator's report, the Auditor will
- 4th We have repetition of Prayer, or Confession on the Common Rule on Wednesdays according to the custom of this house. This omitted these exercises frequently because three of the Confessors were absent.

on account of sickness. I usually have  
a conference of St. Vincent's every three  
or four weeks.

5<sup>th</sup> By regulation of the late &  
honoured Pastor we were to have  
Theol. Conferences "Bis in anno" i.e.  
The Diocesan Conference a week or  
so previous to the meeting of the  
Secular Clergy. This Autumn I  
failed to have the conference at all.  
According to form. For we were  
on the subjects during recreation  
& looked up the solutions of the subjects  
leaving to prepare our reports for  
the meeting of the Secular Clergy.  
6<sup>th</sup> We have no regulations to be  
read, but we had a regular  
visit since 1897.

7<sup>th</sup> I think fraternal charity reigns  
amongst us. Although, sometimes  
there are a few sharp words  
of only transient effect I think



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I think we sometimes feel in  
speaking of the business affairs  
of the Province, we feel a little  
Chagrined to see all our available  
Cork taken away, & nothing done  
towards improvements of this place  
we have no modern Conveniences for  
a College & no College but in name  
having four boarders & 16 day scholars  
& we can hardly give them the care  
they require, on account of sickness  
in the house & the former  
Parish & Council & parochial  
school to attend to

I think we have not complained or  
spoken among ourselves for  
some time, a month or so  
& what our sentiments are "Deus  
Provvidebit"



I think I must however  
invite the New Yorker to per-  
use a Visitation & inform him  
that the present Status of our  
College is not creditable to Religious  
Education & The Reputation of  
the Community.

Wishing you the Happiness of this  
joyous Season & The Consolations  
of the Holy Spirit

I am in the love of our Lord  
& His Immaculate Mother  
Yours affectionately  
J. Layton, S. C. M.

Very Res. Anthony Ford C. M.  
Superior General,

Layton. Cape Girardeau. 17 Mars 06

Sur ~~sur~~ <sup>sur</sup>

### Rapport trimestriel

- 1 - on se lève à 4<sup>h</sup>. on fait l'oraison
- 2 - Pas de lecture à table. Silence excepté lorsqu'il n'est que 2 ou 3 -
- 3 Économe remplit bien son office
- 4 Pas de répétition d'oraison mais Conférence de S<sup>r</sup> Vincent une fois le mois
- 5 Cas de conscience 2 fois l'an
- 6 Pas de visite depuis 1900
- 7 Charité règne. 99<sup>es</sup> des vieux frères pourraient se supporter davantage - La maladie et la vieillesse plus que le mauvais esprit sont cause de leur mauvaise humeur - Nos autres frères nous nous plaignons 99 fois de l'état de nos œuvres mais notre motif est basé sur le désir de voir les œuvres de la Compagnie prospérer dans cette maison qui nous semble abandonnée. Nous avons 99 fois manifesté le désir d'être envoyés dans une autre maison. Nous ne sommes que 3 frères, nous ne pouvons pas enseigner au collège, faire les œuvres de la paroisse, nous occuper de l'école paroissiale, des Sœurs, de leur pensionnat, de leurs locataires etc avec 99<sup>es</sup> satisfaction ou succès ou du moins avec ce que demandent ces fonctions variées. Il y a constante interruption des travaux. Collisions fréquentes etc etc. J'espère que nous serons

désormais plus <sup>soumis</sup> ~~confiés~~ à la volonté de Dieu - J'ai à plusieurs reprises représenté cet état de nos affaires à nos visiteurs. Je suis inquiet quelquefois ne sachant que faire. J'ai dit tout cela à M<sup>r</sup>. Shaw pour qu'il appelle l'attention du futur visiteur sur cette maison et ses emplois - Les intérêts de la religion et l'honneur de la compagnie y sont engagés. Il faut abandonner le Collège ou la paroisse si on ne peut pas s'occuper des deux convenablement. Notre revenu va à la province et notre maison est dans une situation déplorable. Nous n'avons que 12 externes, 3 pensionnaires et la paroisse est négligée par nécessité. Je suis affligé des numéros 2 et 4 du rapport mais je n'y puis rien. Il m'a fallu demander les enfants pour assister les malades, balayer la maison etc. 2 frères coadj. et 1 prêtre ont été malades pendant les 3 derniers mois = de là 3 ou 4 seulement présents à l'oraison, pas de répétition. Je me rappellerai les mots In patientia vestra etc et je prierai pour qu'on installe avant septembre un confère en plus.

Je suis etc





# ... St. Vincent's College ...

Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Mar 17<sup>th</sup> 1906

Very Rev Fr. Thal. C.M. Sup. Gen.  
The grace of Our Lord be with us forever.  
Most-Reverend Father,

I have the following report to make  
1<sup>st</sup> All the members, who are able, are  
prompt to rise & assemble for prayers  
& meditation

2<sup>nd</sup> I have not had reading at table  
but silence generally unless when  
but two or three of us were present

3<sup>rd</sup> The Procurator attends to his duties  
to satisfaction

4<sup>th</sup> We have not had repetition of prayer  
but a Conference of St Vincent's once  
a month

5<sup>th</sup> Theol. Conf. twice a year

6<sup>th</sup> We have no regulations of the Visitor  
to read, no Visitation since 1900

7<sup>th</sup> Charity. I think charity generally  
increases. Some of the old Conferences

Bros. could be more forbearing with  
 one another, but I think the infirmity  
 of old age & sickness is the cause of their  
 peevishness is more the cause than  
 any bad spirit. We priests some-  
 times mutually complain of our circumstances  
 but our sister I think is based on the  
 desire to see the works of the Community  
 thrive in this house which it appears  
 to us is somewhat abandoned.  
 We have sometimes manifested a desire to  
 be sent to any other house.  
 We are but three priests. We cannot teach  
 in the College. attend to the schools of  
 the parish. the parochial school. the  
 Sisters & their Academy & intimate  
 superintend the farms with any  
 satisfaction or success or in any way  
 in which these various duties should  
 be attended to. There is constant  
 interruption of duties "Collisio juris"  
 etc etc. I hope we shall be





## ... St. Vincent's College ...

3

Cape Girardeau, Mo. 190

more conformed to will of God  
 herewith. I have repeatedly represented  
 this condition of affairs to our Visitors  
 I am disturbed with a perplexed  
 Conscience at times not knowing just  
 what to do, have represented these  
 matters to the Superior Counselor  
 To Show C.M. with a view to  
 have him bring the attention of  
 the incoming Visitor to this house  
 & its duties. I think the interests of  
 Religion Education & the reputation  
 of the Community are called in  
 question by continuing as we are.  
 We ought to give up the College or provide  
 if it is impossible to attend to both  
 properly. Our income goes to the  
 Province, but our house is in a  
 deplorable condition. We have but  
 12 day pupils & three boarders



4

& a family sadly neglected from necessity.  
 I am sorry to have to make the reports -  
 under nos (2) & (4) but - cannot help  
 it; I have had to ask the boys to assist  
 me in working on the sick & sweeping the  
 house etc. Two of the Bros & one of the  
 Parents were sick much of time of last  
 three months, hence had but 3 or four  
 present at prayers & meditation,  
 & did not have repetition.

I will remember the words  
*Patentia vestra precedebat omnino & cetero*  
 & in the meantime pray that some  
 more may be inaugurated before  
 next September.

I am in love of Oxford & His Grace  
 unsculable Mother of Rayton & cetero

Very Res<sup>d</sup> Fr. That I can say, Gen.



# ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE

— AND —  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,

Votre traduction au "dos"

Cape Girardeau Mo., June 19<sup>th</sup> 1846

Very Rev Anthony Thiel C.M. Sup Gen  
The grace of Our Lord be with us forever  
Most Honored Father!

I have the following report to make:  
1<sup>st</sup> Rising etc. The numbers are punctual in  
this regard. excepting the sick - aged whom  
I cannot expect to accompany always  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading. have not been able to keep  
Reading. Since boys left for home at  
the beginning of May. There were but three  
punctual. Absentees two. The old Brothers  
are not able to read.

3<sup>rd</sup> The "Bisser" or Procurator, Young  
Witherby is everything that could be  
desired.

4<sup>th</sup> The Repetition. have not had repetition  
as we were but few, one or two of Bros  
having been sick most of the time  
We read the Confessions of St. Vincent



## ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE

—AND—

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,



Cape Girardeau Mo., 189

3<sup>rd</sup> We have had the Conference or 'Convent' of the Divines among ourselves previous to the meeting of the Seculars. This after the prescription of the late Visitor W. Smith. 6<sup>th</sup> We have no regulations to be read at prescribed intervals.

7<sup>th</sup> I think we live, for the most part, in gloriously among ourselves. Sometimes perhaps I am not very patient with some of the old Brothers.

Our Visitor, W. Thim, paid us a visit yesterday. We spoke of the affairs of this dying institution. I have some assurances that as much as can be done for it, will be done. We hope to have the parish & parochial school attached to properly & the College & the Forum etc. Wishing you every blessing.

I remain in the love of Our Lord

His Communicated Mother,

Your devoted servant

J. Layton, S. O. M.



M. Layton. Sup. de Cape Girardeau. (Maconna)

19 juin 1906

- 1 Lever. tous excepté malades, âgés.
  - 2 Lecture à table ne se fait pas depuis que les enfants sont partis en vacances. On n'est que 3 ou 2 - Les frères ne savent pas lire
  - 3 L'économe M. Schultz fait très bien
  - 4 Répétitions n'ont pas eu lieu, un le petit nombre, 1 ou 2 frères ont été malades presque tout le temps - On lit la conférence de S. Vincent
  - 5 On a fait les cas des novices avant la réunion des prêtres séculiers suivant les prescriptions de M. Smith
  - 6 Il n'y a pas de compte rendu de visites à lire.
  - 7 On vit en charité. Gps ne sont peut être pas patients avec les frères âgés.
- Le visiteur est venu nous voir, nous a donné des assurances qu'il ferait ce qu'il pourrait pour cette œuvre en décadence.



... St. Vincent's College ...

Mr. Robert

Mr. Thomas Burgee demande  
la démission des vœux à cause de sa mauvaise  
conduite. Le visiteur lui a dit que c'était la seule  
à qu'on pouvait faire pour sa faute.

Cape Girardeau, Mo. September the 13<sup>th</sup> 1906

Most Honored Father

Your blessing please  
May the grace of Our Lord always  
be with us.

I have dear Father by my  
bad conduct proven that I have  
no vacation for the little Community.  
I write to ask you to release me  
from my vows.

All things were layed before the Rev  
visitor for his consideration and he  
told me this was all that could be  
done for my offences.

Consider this dear Father I pray  
you and remember me in your  
masses and prayers.

I remain as yet yours  
in Christ Thomas Burgee C.M.

Il a fait les vœux en 1904

24 Juin





... St. Vincent's College...

Cape Girardeau, Mo. Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 1906.

G. D. N. S. S. N.  
Most Honored Father A. Fiat Sup Gen

I wish to ask my  
dismissals as I am not servicable  
to the Congregation and I think  
the Visitor will explain to you.

Asking your blessing  
I remain your unworthy  
son.

Francis J. Walsh C.M.

To Very Rev. A. Fiat Superior General

Re Francis J. Walsh (né en 1861 entre 1888)  
demande la démission des vœux parce qu'il  
ne peut pas rendre de service  
(Il n'est ~~pas~~ marqué sur le catalogue qu'à  
la table)





# ... St. Vincent's College ...

M Robert

Cape Girardeau, Mo June 18 1907

Very Rev. A. Fiatt.

"The grace of Our Lord  
be always with us."

As I am most unhappy  
in this community &  
can never be happy again  
on account of difficulties,  
please send me my papers  
as soon as possible. If you  
want any reason it is "I am  
unhappy."

Yours in Christ.

Fr. Edwards, C.M.

Comme je suis très malheureuse dans cette  
Communauté et que je ne pourrai jamais  
plus être heureuse à cause des difficultés,  
je vous prie de m'envoyer mes papiers aussitôt  
que possible. Si vous voulez une raison, c'est  
que je suis malheureuse.

Edwards

Chartered 1843

## St. Vincent's College

Cape Girardeau, Mo.

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1910

Very Rev. A. Fiat, S.P.O.M.

Most Honored Father,

Gratias Domini Nostris

sic semper nobiscum.

In obedience to your directions, I am addressing you during this Ember Week of February. I regret that I am not familiar enough with the French to write in your own language. Though able with the aid of a dictionary to read your circular letters, I cannot write the French. Hence am forced to address you in the language of my own country.

Our little Community here is composed of six priests and two brothers. I am happy to be able to report to you that as far as can be seen, the spirit of charity and



Chartered 1843**St. Vincent's College**

Cape Girardeau, Mo.

- 7 -

union reigns amongst us. The rules and practices of the community are fairly well observed. The priests are young, capable and energetic. The two brothers are old and have almost finished their course. One of them, Brother Madigan, has entered the ninety-fourth year of his age. He is feeble and almost helpless and is waiting patiently for Our Lord to call him. For many years he has been a good and faithful and humble brother. Even now with his years and infirmities, he manages to rise almost daily to morning prayers, to assist at Holy Mass, and to receive Holy Communion.

Our College is not as prosperous as it was in the past. This is owing to conditions which, no doubt, our good Visitation has made known before. Our buildings are old and need many repairs to meet the requirements of a mod-



Chartered 1843

## St. Vincent's College

Cape Girardeau, Mo.

- 3 -

Our college. These repairs our Visitor is not able to permit owing to more necessary demands in other of our establishments. We are hoping and praying that our work here in the college may soon be restored to its former proportions. The parish of which we have charge is small owing to the limited number of Catholic families. However it is well established, well organized and the people are of simple faith and devoted to their religion. We serve them as best we can and among them are able to do much good.

Such are the things it occurs to me to report in this my first address by you. We all know, Honored Father your paternal interest in this American Province of our Congregation. We appreciate your kindness and in closing beg of you to remember in your prayers this particular portion of your charge.

Most sincerely in St. Vincent  
Eugene A. Rustell, S. D. C. M.

Chartered 1843

## St. Vincent's College

Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Mr. Antell Eugene  
Cape Girardeau  
Occ. State Min.  
20 May 1910

Benedictine

Dear college friend  
to the college of the Visitation  
May 20, 1910

Very Rev. A. Fiat, S. F. C. M.

Most Honored Father,

Gratia Domini

nostri sit semper nobiscum.

Once again de-  
xing this Ember Week, in accordance with you  
laisher, I address myself to you. Nothing of  
moment has transpired since my former  
letter and I am happy to make the same  
good report as before. I feel very grate-  
ful for your kind response, all the more so, be-  
cause I did not look for an answer, knowing  
the great number of affairs that occupy your  
attention. Since my former letter to you, our  
Visitor has come twice to visit Cape Girardeau.  
He informed us that with your approbation  
he is going to convert our college into an  
astoria School and bring down the young

Chartered 1843**St. Vincent's College**

Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Students from Perryville. He is planning already to make certain necessary repairs and improvements in the buildings. We are all pleased that our College is not to be closed after so many years of success in the great work of Education. It will be a splendid place in which to train the young boys who aspire to the Holy Priesthood. I know you will not forget in your prayers your spiritual children of Cape Girardeau.

In the love of Our Lord your obedient  
Son in St. Vincent

Englbert A. Antell, S. V. C. M.





M Hueber 1<sup>er</sup> 26 Août 1910

Cape Girardeau

Occ & lots Unus

Lettre de M. Hueber

Chicago 25 Août 1910  
protoste contre la nomination  
de M. Martin comme supérieur

Mon très honoré Père,  
De l'École apostolique

Je veux appeler votre attention  
sur une chose qui vient d'être  
faite par M. le Visiteur,  
il s'agit du placement de  
M. Martino, auparavant  
Supérieur de notre maison  
ici à Chicago, qui vient  
d'être nommé Supérieur  
de l'école apostolique à Cape  
Girardeau. Quand il fut placé  
ici à Chicago, il y a un peu  
plus d'un an, il avait déjà  
un passé peu édifiant.  
Depuis ses années d'études  
il était connu pour être peu  
fidèle à la règle du lever  
et de la méditation du  
matin. Il n'a jamais bien

125  
observé nos saintes règles, il a  
toujours eu un esprit mondain.  
Il passe pour un homme qui  
s'entend aux affaires; il a de  
l'initiative et de l'esprit pour  
les grandes entreprises. Mais  
son caractère n'est pas très  
stable et, manque de vigueur.  
C'est un homme qui aime le  
monde et les choses du monde,  
comme le plaisir, la liberté;  
il a en aversion au contraire  
la contrainte et l'esprit  
de recueillement.

Pendant l'année qu'il a passée  
ici dans la maison, il a  
montré de quoi il est capable;  
il a foulé aux pieds toutes  
les règles au point de démo-  
raliser la maison toute  
entière, et de permettre  
aux confrères de faire ce  
qui leur plaît, faisant de  
notre maison un hôtel.

restaurant pour ecclésiastiques.  
Enfin, lorsqu'il a été démis  
de sa charge ici, et avant  
de quitter la maison pour

ailleurs, il a demandé à M.  
le Visiteur quel poste il  
allait occuper, en attendant  
il est resté encore huit jours  
après son changement.

Poussi par un amour sin-  
cère pour notre Compagnie  
je proteste énergiquement  
contre la nomination de  
M. Martin comme Supérieur  
de la maison à Cape Girardeau.  
Il faut préserver la source de  
la contamination, à savoir:  
de l'esprit du monde et de  
la désobéissance aux règles.  
On vous dira, mon très honoré  
Père, que ce changement n'est  
que pour un temps assez  
court pour permettre à M.  
Martin de se reposer; mais  
l'intérêt de la Compagnie  
est bien au-dessus du senti-  
ment d'un confrère, et même  
au-dessus de la vie d'un con-  
frère. On a entendu dire  
plusieurs fois par les jeunes  
confrères les paroles que voici:  
"Tout ce que vous avez à faire



125  
" pour avoir un Supérieur, c'est  
" de rompre avec tout, de fouler  
" aux pieds toutes les règles, et  
" de laisser de côté vos devoirs,  
" en un mot, de faire ce qui  
" vous plaît.

Voilà déjà plus de trente ans  
que je suis dans la Compagnie  
et rien ne m'est plus cher  
que ses intérêts; aussi bien,  
je me sens obligé en conscience  
d'élever ma voix pour for-  
tester contre la nomination  
de M. Martino, comme  
Supérieur de l'école aposto-  
lique à Sasse Girardeau.

Je suis, mon très honoré  
Père, votre fils dévoué  
en St. Vincent.  
S. P. Huber.

St. Thomas  
Cape Girardeau  
Dec 1910

Church of St. Vincent de Paul  
1427 South Ninth Street  
Saint Louis

2 Oct 1910  
L'ouvrage d'un homme de Martin supérieur  
de l'école apostolique - ce qu'il défend, si le St. Père le veut  
Most Honored Father.

Your blessing if you please.

Since receiving your letter in which you stated  
that you did not wish M. Martin to be placed  
at the head of the apostolic school I have  
been unable to call a meeting of the consultors.  
Both Fr. Nugent and Fr. Shaw have been engaged  
on the missions. But in regard to the matter  
of your letter I spoke to Fr. Nugent and Fr.  
Mason separately, as I had an occasion to meet  
Fr. Nugent after the close of one of the missions.  
and they judged that I should write to you again  
to request you to allow Fr. Martin to remain at  
the head of the apostolic school.  
as I felt quite certain that for the reasons



(2)  
 Church of St. Vincent de Paul  
 1427 South Ninth Street  
 Saint Louis

I had given, you would allow Fr. Martin to be  
 head of the Apostles School, and hence Fr. Martin  
 was directed by me to go to Cape Girardeau to take  
 charge of the Apostles School. - I know well  
 that many conferees in the Province, after Fr. Martin  
 had been deposed from the office of superior in the  
 house of Chicago, regard Fr. Martin's appointment  
 to the Cape as a great mistake, but these conferees  
 do not have to deal with Fr. Martin as I have to  
 deal with him. My sole object in this matter  
 was to show Fr. Martin that whilst he was not  
 considered as deserving of the office of superior in  
 the house of Chicago, still we did not wish to  
 humiliate and crush him beyond measure, but  
 to give him another opportunity in a smaller



Church of St. Vincent de Paul  
1427 South Ninth Street  
Saint Louis

after to prove whether or not he was deserving of any confidence, as he claimed that the multiplicity of cares and duties of the Chicago house was the cause of his failure.

In going to take charge of the apostolic school he declared that he would fulfill his duties.

Still if it displeasing to you, Most Honored Father, notwithstanding the representations that I have made, that Fr. Martin should hold the position of Superior of the House of Cape Girardeau, I will propose some other confere. I was not inclined to write this letter, but both Fr. Meyer and Fr. Munson advised me to do so. After your letter was received I felt that all I could do was to wait until I could call a meeting of the consultors.



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Church of St. Vincent de Paul  
1427 South Ninth Street  
Saint Louis

and propose some other confere in place of Mr. Martin.  
But the two consultants mentioned above advised  
me to write to you again about the matter.

In regard to the Theater in Chicago I may say that  
the announcements made were as displeasing and  
disturbing to me as to anyone else. I inclose  
copy of a letter which I wrote to the Superior of  
the house in Chicago. - Sept. 1871. - After the  
receipt of your letter I again told the Superior  
that the regular Theatrical plays should be  
discontinued, and that either the theater should  
be closed, or should be used for parochial  
affairs and for illustrated historical lectures.  
as the Theatrical plays were to be discontinued  
Mr. Nugent and Mr. Munson gave us their opinion



## Church of St. Vincent de Paul

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Saint Louis

that you would not wish me to undertake the journey to Washington to get the views of the Apostolic Delegate in regard to the theater.

I must say that the announcements in regard to the theater were made and arrangements were made without consulting me, as I state in the enclosed letter.

We have just received your recent letter on obedience, and we are sincerely thankful to you, Most Reverend Father, for this timely letter.

In the love of our Lord and St. Vincent

Your devoted servant

Thomas Kinney S.S.C.M.



## Church of St. Vincent de Paul

1427 South Ninth Street

Saint Louis

Traduction au Vos

Oct. 6, 1910.

Most Honored Father,  
 Your blessing if you please!

My principal object in writing to you at this time is to beg you allow Mr. Martin to remain as superior of the Apostolic School at Cape Girardeau. He is in charge there now, & he has declared to the Visitor that he will have the rules strictly observed, & thus try to redeem himself from the charges made against him in Chicago.

The Visitor was here yesterday & told me that you had written saying you did not want Mr. Martin put in charge of any house for the present. The Visitor said that Mr. Martin must be removed from Cape Girardeau, but I suggested that he delay this action till I could write to you.

No doubt it would have been more prudent not to put Mr. Martin as superior, especially of the Apostolic School, just after his removal from the superiorship of Chicago, because he neglected to observe the rules, & I have them observed in the house. But now that he is in possession at Cape Girardeau, & in the good dispositions which he has manifested



## Church of St. Vincent de Paul

1427 South Ninth Street

Saint Louis

to the Visitor, I am afraid his removal would have a dangerous result. Besides it would be very difficult at this time to find a suitable superior to replace him at the Cape. In these reasons I most humbly beg you, Most Honored Father, to allow him to remain where he is, at least until it is apparent whether he observes & enforces the rules, or not.

Your letter of Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> reached me in due time. I am sorry to say that I am still of the same opinion regarding the very important matter that I spoke of in my last two letters. What I suggested is the only course that appears to me proper for the good of the Province.

With a prayer that your health may be good, & that you may receive the beautiful graces of God to help you in your important & onerous duties, I am

Your devoted son in St. Vincent,

J. V. Nugent S.S.M.



M. Martin Jean Joseph  
Cape Girardeau  
Oce. 11 Jan. 1911

In Collegio Sancti Vincentii,

Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Reverendissime A.A. Fiat, *après avoir espéré son Curriculum Vitae*  
*il demande à venir se refaire spirituellement*  
Superior Generalis Congregationis Missionis; *à la maison mère de*  
Pater Reverendissime:- *Paris*

Benedictionem tuam, si tibi placet.

Pater meus, nescio unde mihi initium sit faciendum. Sum qui desiderem ut fidelis Sancti Vincentii filius sim, qui, tamen me esse ornatissimi nominis indignum vere sentiam atque cognoscam.

Desiderium insolitum jam dudum me possidet; hoc desiderium Feste Manifestationis Immaculatae Virginis Mariae, a sacro numismate, consilium adeo definitum factum est ut nunc tibi scriberem atque gratiam a te peterem. Intelligo hoc desiderium esse mihi temptationi posse---somnia inani, quod sit causa objurgationis. Quod cum ita sit, tibi cor meum patefacturus sum, sperans Deum, in ejus misericordia, tibi tempus ad meas sententias considerandas, daturum esse.

Annos tres et triginta vixi. In hoc tempore, Collegium Apostolicum et Parochia Sancti Vincentii (Cape Girardeau) mihi curae sunt. Cum tua venia, mihi liceat breviter narrare vitae meae acta, quae cor meum tibi clarius patefaciant.

Anno decimo quarto ad Collegium Apostolicum profectus sum. Decimo sexto, Seminarium Internum me recepit. Decimo octavo felix vota promisi. Tunc, vere innocens mundi, purissimo vocationis animabar. Gratias Deo ago pro beneficiis multis, maxime pro eo, quo mihi parentes et fratres et sorores optimas dedit. Maximum natu novem liberorum, me pudet, in hac die, in hoc vitae discrimine causa parvi boni confecti. Fratres et sorores meliores sunt; quorum modus se gerendi me vitam religiosam profitentem increpat.

Philosophia completa, cum tribus aliis seminaristis in "Los Angeles", ad docendum in collegio missus sum. (Horum seminaristorum duo postea ex Congregatione exiverunt et tertius mortuus est.) Ecce initium aberrationis a vita spirituali. Tamen, in diebus illis, oculi mei clausi erant. Admodum adolescens ac industrius opus meum dilexi. Obedientia me ad collegii opus vocavit et ego toto animo parui. Ad theologiae studium quindecim menses, summis impedimentis, dati sunt; Multum verò temporis in collegii opere agebatur. Etiam res impediverunt quominus ad studia scripturae sacrae, historiae ecclesiasticae, etc. animum contul- issem.

Regulae quoque observantia non exstabat, et caritatis indigentia atque justitiae inopia inter majores, innocentiam meam offende- bat. Denique post duos annos, ad Chicaginem missus sum, in quo loco alterum annum egi docendo, sine occasione ad aliquid utile studendum. Ordines Majores suscepi mense Junii 1900, quibus adhuc adolescentia obsteterat.

Haec non narrantur ut querelam tibi deferam, neque ut excusationem ponam, sed ita dico ut status rerum intelligas, qui ad me pertinebant. In novem annos sequentes, iisdem statibus rerum, urbibus "Los Angeles" et "St. Louis" variis temporibus docebam. Addendum est quod praeter docendi opus, curae mihi semper erant collegii societates atque "College Journals et Athletics" ut nos dicimus, ad quae omnia multum temporis et multum virium dabam. Horum novem annorum, unus excipiendus est, A.D. 1907, quo in urbe "Denver" sine communi vita vixissem. Illuc ad aedificandum seminarium missus eram.



Anno 1909, mense Maii, ad Chicaginem, statibus rerum difficillimis, obedientia me vocavit. Hic diligenter laboravi usque ad mensem Julii 1910. Visitator saepe mea consilia approbaverat, videtur autem alios Concilii Provincialis me condemnasse pietatis inopia---saltem, ita dicitur. Subito, sine admonitione, demotus sum. Parui sine queremoniae verbo, cum jam dudum hanc accusationem esse nimium veram intelligam. Salus animae meae semper operi subjecta fuerat.

Nunc, in hoc loco, cum quinque aliis sacerdotibus, nitor ut utilis sim causa parvulorum, qui sunt spes futurae. Sum parochus, sine assistentibus, praeses collegii et professor. Omnes fratres amorem regulae ostendunt. Est autem multum vexationis causa rerum necessariorum, et mihi non est otium quo me ad altiora conferre possim.

Mihi videtur nos omnes adeo circumstantiis formari. Non aliquem reprehendo quia fere omnes egisse, et etiam agere, pro scientia sua, sentio. Verumtamen res mihi abstulit somnium pueritiae---me filium Sancti Vincentii fidelem esse futurum.

Adhuc res accepi---secundo flumine vehebar---quia id esse meum officium putavi. Nunc, in alio modo mihi agendum est. Si diutius morer, mihi non fortitudo atque virtus sint.

Provincia Occidentalis Statuum Foederatorum olim hortulus dives bonorum fuit. Res secundae dilatationem foverunt. Mature hortulus tantus ager factus est quantum operarii non curare potuerunt. Erroris herbae, non primo observatae, ortae sunt atque magnae arbores celeriter factae sunt. Custos novus venit qui hortum curaret. Hic erat homo virtutis, homo mansuetudinis potius quam roboris; non talis qui secure percutiret. Malas arbores

vidit, non autem percussit sed ex arboribus folia caute avellet.

Sic ego etiam egi; tum folia avellebam cum me secure percutire oportebat. Parvi boni sum. Mihi indiget summi vitae problematis intelligentia. Quamquam exitum satis bonum opus meum comitatur, tamen, scio, magis vere inimicis, me non eam habere pietatem, qua vita mea sit animanda. Hereditate animi lenitatem recepi et mihi vere videtur, me nunquam consulto injuriam alicui intulisse; decus autem, parentibus bonis, non mihi affert.

Quod peto et volo est ut ex his circumstantiis, ad paucos menses vel usque ad annum exeam. Volo ut in aliquem locum adeam in quo animi potestatibus moderari discam. In hoc loco, multae me impediunt curae, quae animum diverse trahunt.

Requiretur, fortasse nunc, quemadmodum, cum jam dudum in spiritu mundi versar, post tot annos, vitam reformare possim. Saltem, clare patet, mihi confestim agendum esse aliquid. Diutius non volo secundo flumine ferri. Saepius frustra vertebam ut ad oram natarem, semper autem vitae quotidiana officia me retulerunt.

Ad me sententia advenit, ut forte mihi ire ad "Maison Mere", Paris, liceret, in quo loco venerabili, spiritum vocationis induam. Sic sincere desidero. Ex rebus multifariis anima mea clamat ut in pace se possideat. Forsitan me fallam, forsitan mihi pravitas plus insit, quo melius agere possim. Si sic tibi videatur, noli te de hac rogatione angere.

Officia me deserere ignavum videatur, tamen experientia docuit me non posse bene facere, nisi Deus confirmat. "Quaerite primum regnum Dei, et justitiam ejus, et haec omnia adjicientur vobis". Quilibet officio meo fungi potest meliore exitu.



5.

Si mihi favor concedatur, velim ut, aliis insciis praeter  
Visitatorem, exeam. Vere intelligo hanc petitionem esse insolitam  
et tamen aliquid me impellit ut tibi adeam.

Benedicat te Deus et det tibi patientiam, ut filii tui  
errantis adversa patiaris.

In Amore Domini Nostri Jesu Christi,

*Joannes Joseph Martin, S.C.M.*

A. L. L. L.  
Cape Girardeau  
Occ. State - Miss  
29 Jan 1911

Church of St. Vincent de Paul

1427 South Ninth Street

Saint Louis

Consent à ce que M. Martin  
vill. à St. Lazare - propose pour  
le remplacer M. Levan lequel sera

approved

Dec 23 February 1911  
remplacé à donner  
par M. Gronin  
de St. Louis

Dominus et Honoratissimus Pater:

Benedictionem tuam in Thi

placet.

Accepi litteras tuas de petitione D. Martin. quoniam  
ad Parisiam vult et conferret et ibi per aliquod  
tempus commorari. Quominus difficile sit,  
tempore presenti, locum eius supplere, libenter  
tamen eius voluntati ego et consules consentimus  
ratione saluta eius motivi.

Pro officio superioris domus Cape Girardeau - nostras  
Scholas Apostolicas - consuetudinem approbantes  
nomen D. Thomas Levan propono. Isti confiteri  
prout alios qualitates requisitos optimus versatus  
est in omnibus studiis quae in schola



Church of St. Vincent de Paul  
1427 South Ninth Street  
Saint Louis

apostolica habentur.

D. Levan nunc est superior domus Denver.

Ad supplerendum quo locum in domo Denverensi  
nomen D. Joannis Cronin, praesenti tempore director  
seminariorum in seminario Kenrickiano apud  
St. Louis, consultoribus approbantibus profertur.

Joannis D. Cronin sit juvenis, natus judicio  
tamen praeditus est qualitatibus requisitis.

Propterea humillime peto ut D. Levan domus  
Cespe Girardeau nominatus superior, et ut D. Cronin  
domus Denver, nominatus superior.

In amore Domini natus et D. Vincentis

Imus filius addictissimus

Thomas Tierney. S.S.C.M.

A. Pissier  
Cape Girardeau  
Occ. State - Mo.  
29 Jan 1911

Church of St. Vincent de Paul

1427 South Ninth Street

Saint Louis

Consent à ce que M. Martin  
cille à St. Lazare - propose pour  
le remplacer M. Levan lequel sera

approuvé

Le 23 Février 1911  
remplacé à Denver  
par M. Gronin  
de St. Louis

Dominus et Honoratissimus Pater:

Benedictionem tuam in Thi

floret.

Accepi litteras tuas de petitione D. Martin, qua  
ad Praesentia vult et conferri et ibi per aliquod  
tempus commorari. Quoniam difficile sit,  
tempore praesentis, locum eius supplere, libenter  
tamen, quo voluntati ego et consultores consentimus  
ratione soluta quo motivi.

Pro officio superioris domus Cape Girardeau - nostras  
Scholas Apostolicas - consultoribus approbationibus  
nomen D. Thomas Levan propono. Iste confertur  
praeter alias qualitates requisitas optimus versatus  
est in omnibus studiis quae in schola



## Church of St. Vincent de Paul

1427 South Ninth Street

Saint Louis

apostolica habetur.

D. Levan nunc est superior domus Denver.

Ad supplerendum quo locum in domo Denverensi

nomen D. Joannis Cronin, praesenti tempore directus

seminariorum in seminario Kenrickiano apud

St. Louis, consultoribus approbantibus profecto.

Joannis D. Cronin sit juvenis, natus judicio

tamen praeditus est qualitatibus requisitis.

Propterea humillime peto ut D. Levan domus

Cespe Girardeau nominetur superior, et ut D. Cronin

domus Denver nominetur superior.

In amore Domini natus et S. Vincentis

Imus filius addictissimus

Thos. Henry. L.S.



M. Lavan

Occ. Etats-Unis  
26 Dec 1914  
CHARTERED 1843ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE  
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MD.

Le 26 Décembre, 1914  
 parle de l'école apostolique - La typhoïde  
 a fait licencier les élèves qui sont  
 maintenant revenus  
 Monsieur et très honoré Père:

Votre benédiction d'il vous plait -

Je n'ai rien en particulier  
 de vous écrire ni comme supé-  
 rieur de l'école apostolique ni  
 comme consultant de la province.  
 Vous devez être bien renseigné  
 de toutes nos affaires par la  
 visite de Monsieur Walsh. A  
 cause de la fièvre typhoïde,  
 nous avons été obligé de renvoyer  
 nos élèves pour le temps être.  
 ils vont retourner le 4 Janvier.  
 Que l'Infant Jean vous benisse  
 en toutes choses. Dans l'amour  
 de notre Mère Immaculée Je suis  
 Votre fils obéissant  
 Thomas F. Lavan S.M.





M. Loran Cape Girardeau Mo.  
27 Mars 1912 Oce. St. Vincent's Coll.

CHARTERED 1843

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO.

Ecob apostolique va bien

Le 27 Mars, 1912

Monsieur et très Honoré Père:

Votre bénédiction s'il vous plaît.

Comme Consulteur, il faut répondre sans l'affirmative à toutes les questions proposées excepté l'entête la première. Comme Supérieur de l'École Apostolique, je n'ai rien en particulier à vous écrire. Les élèves ne sont pas nombreux, mais ils sont bien disposés et donnent de bonnes espérances. Dans le mois de Juin, je tâcherai de vous écrire plus de détails. En attendant, je me consacre dans l'année de notre Min Immaculée, votre fils obéissant,  
Thomas F. Loran D.D.



h Duggan

Dec 24th - 1912

2 Mar 1912

CHARTERED 1913

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO.

May 2nd 1912.

62

Reverendissimi Antoni Fisk., C. M.

Honoratissime Pater:

Benedictionem tuam implores, si placeat tibi.

Juxta Decreta Synodus Generalis, officio meo  
 tibi scrubandi nunc perfungor. In epistolarum  
 initio me delectat praeferri omnes confratres  
 domus nostrae S. Vincentii apud Cape Girardeau  
 esse pios, obediunt et fideles. Caritas fraterna  
 maxime viget. His rebus permotus, nullam  
 causam incusandi invenio; me ipse tantum  
 negligentiae condemnans. Deus concedat  
 tibi et Congregationi gratias necessarias ad  
 opera bene implenda. Qua spe fretus,  
 ex imo corde, me profiteor

Devotissimum tuum servum,

D. A. Duggan, S. S. C. M.





M. Murtough James, O.C.C. Slat. Min.  
3 May 1912

CHARTERED 1843

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE  
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1912.

M. Crope

Most Honored Father

Your blessing if you please.

Eight (8) months ago I came here and was appointed - (a) Assistant - (b) Procurator, (c) Edmonitor, (d) Consultor.

In answer to the questions asked consultors in your letter of November 7<sup>th</sup> 1890 will say

1<sup>st</sup> The two brothers, the Superior, myself and one other priest rise at 4 o'clock & make meditation in common very regularly.

~~The~~ Two (2) other priests often fail to rise at 4 o'clock. The three other Priests very seldom rise for meditation.

2<sup>nd</sup> For the greater part of the time we have reading at meals.

3. The Prefects do not keep good discipline in the School. There is much disorder. - This is the Apostolic school.

A Procurator Johnson<sup>rules</sup> of the Office is as far as I am allowed to. The Superior does



CHARTERED 1843

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE  
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO.

much of the buying. The Superior does a large part of the business of the house through a young Brother who has been in the Community only a few years.

This is done without my knowledge or the knowledge of the other consultants.

4. We have Chapter regularly. Only three (3) times was a domestic Council held since I came here. A few times a conference of St. Vincent was read: no repetition of prayer.

5. No Theological Conference is held.

6. The regulations made at Visitations are not read.

7. There is charity & fraternal union.

As Assistant I preside at all the exercises in the absence of the Superior. As Consultant I no longer attempt to advise him. It did no good. He is young & stubborn & self satisfied.

Asking your blessing James A. Murnaghan  
J.S.C.M.





CHARTERED 1843

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO.

May 6, 1912

Very Reverend A. Fiat C. M.

Most Honored Father:

Your blessing if you please,

I have nothing special to remark concerning the management of our house. We follow the exercises and customs of the community, rise at four o'clock, have our meditation of an hour in common, have reading during meals.

It is true we do not assemble in Domestic Council every week but only when some business is to be transacted.

The conferees of this house are pious, zealous and obedient. Charity flourishes.

The boys of the apostolic



CHARTERED 1843

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE  
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO.

School are studious and virtuous, they manifest the signs of being one day true sons of our sainted father - St Vincent. Having nothing further to communicate and wishing you all God's choicest blessings.  
Most Honored Father.

I have the honor to be  
Your obedient son in St Vincent  
James F. Whelan S.S.M.  
Consultor to the local Superior



Lincoln, Nebr. U.S.A.

1444 "A" St.,

Sept. 1st - 1913

M. Samuel O'Connor  
Maison Cape Girardeau  
Province State Univ. Acad.  
Date 1 sept 1913  
Objet Serrante un congé

Very Rev. Anthony Fiat, Supr. Genl of the Cong. of the Mission.,

Gratia D.N. sit semper nobiscum!

Most Honored Father.,

Financial difficulties at home have made it necessary to request a Leave of Absence from the Community. I laid all the details of these conditions before the V. Rev Visitor and his Council. The V. Rev. Visitor and his Council decided that conditions at home justified me in requesting a Leave. They advised me to be brief in writing you stating simply that all we have at home will be lost if I do not look after it and that my parents are aged and unable to look after matters and to provide for themselves. Therefore I request of you a Leave of Absence for two years to arrange affairs at home. Only the greatest and most urgent necessity could prompt me to make this request,

I belong to the house at Cape Girardeau Mo.

Sincerely in St Vincent,

*D. B. O'Connor S.S.M.*

*Le 2<sup>e</sup> ans necessite par affaires  
S. famille - (lettre de l'Evêque)  
26 oct 1913*

M. Lepage  
5 Sept. 1919

## SAINT VINCENT'S COLLEGE

2<sup>d</sup> CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI

Etats Unis Occident.

September 5th, 1919.

Very Rev. Francis Verdier, C. M. V. G.,  
Paris, France.

Very Rev. and Honored Father:

Your Blessing if you please.

This letter is to notify you that I have received your letter appointing me superior of our house at Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

I thank you for the confidence which you place in me; and trusting, in the grace of our Lord, I will do all in my power to observe the rules of my office and the decrees of the Community.

I remain,  
Respectfully and devotedly  
In St. Vincent.

Marshall J. Lepage  
L.S. C.M.





ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

N.   
 Cap. Maison Girardeau, Mo., Décembre 1890

Province

Date

Objet

Mes honore' Pere

Gratia D. N. J. C. Sit semper nobiscum

Avant que l'année finisse je m'em-  
 presse de répondre aux questions sou-  
 mises à la considération des consultants  
 de nos maisons.

1. Pour ce qui regarde la levée du ma-  
 tin à l'heure prescrite on est exact. Nous  
 avons la consolation de voir tous les mem-  
 bres de la maison présents à la méditation  
 du matin. C'est rare que quelq'un  
 soit absent et lorsque cela arrive il  
 y a toujours quelque raison, soit indispo-  
 sition soit devant dire la Messe tard  
 à la paroisse.

2. L'autre de l'acteur nous prions nos  
 repas en silence excepté lorsque le Su-  
 périeur dispense du silence. Cependant



2.

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., \_\_\_\_\_ 190

depuis la retraite le Supérieur fait faire la lecture par un de nos pensionnaires.

3. Je crois que chacun remplit les devoirs de son office consciencieusement.

4. Le conseil domestique se tient toutes les semaines et rarement on y manque.

Les Conférences sur les Règles ont lieu une fois par semaine, et une fois par mois on lie une des Conférences de St. Vincent à sa place. Le Chapitre a lieu régulièrement tous les Vendredis.

5. On n'a pas encore établi les lois de conscience dans notre maison. Il y a, par ordre de Monseigneur, deux Conférences ecclésiastiques qui ont lieu chaque année dans un temps déterminé auxquelles assiste le Supérieur et celui qui a soin de la paroisie.





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ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

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6. On dirait qu'on n'a pas l'habitude de lire les ordonnances faites par le Vinteur pendant ses visites officielles.

7. C'est un grand sujet de consolation de pouvoir dire que l'union fraternelle règne chez nous, grâce à Dieu et à notre Supérieur qui par sa douceur et autres bonnes qualités s'attire la confiance de ses Compagnons et par là il lui est facile d'obtenir que la bonne entente et l'union existent dans la maison confiée à ses soins.

Voilà, très honorable Père, à peu près tout ce qu'il y a à dire pour ce qui concerne les consultants.

Je profite volontiers de cette occasion pour vous souhaiter la bonne année. Que le bon Dieu vous conserve bien des années pour le bien de la Congregation en general

et pour le bien-être spirituel d'un  
chacun en particulier.

Avec des sentiments d'affection et de  
respect je suis, très honore Père,

Votre enfant tout dévoué

A. Verrina p. d. b. m.





M.

Maison

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Province

Date

Objet

Cape Girardeau, Mo., \_\_\_\_\_ 190

Rever<sup>me</sup> et Honoratissime Pater  
 Gratia Dei Nostri sit semper vobiscum

Honoret et ad te litteras mitto eundemque  
 meliori eo quod rerum ordinem invenit  
 (Ex Cir No<sup>is</sup> 7. 1890)

1° Surgere: nichil dicendum.

2° Legere: nisi quantum fieri potest  
 his pueruli nostri male legunt, aliquando  
 aegroti, quoties non legendum toties si-  
 lentium habemus? - fere quidem -

3° Utique pater sed vel amicus videtur  
 aliquando aegre ferendum.

4° Utique ad omnia si ex profino collationes  
 in die dominica

5° Praehee loquendo, <sup>respondendum</sup> eo quod iam in  
 forma habitor sed "p<sup>re</sup>le m<sup>ile</sup> in  
 disputationibus, proelioria et ego et  
 porcelus. D. Hopkins conferentior discere  
 sacras bis in anno attendimus



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6. Non. quod scire non sunt -  
regulationes, ultimarum visitationis  
acta, non sunt nisi "euge parvi boni"  
9' (Chonlos fraternas) late loquendo  
utique; in aliis domibus quod  
agendum sit. nescio

De personis. Rev. Verma senex  
pius; ut in juventute ita in senectute  
longa sua superioritatis provecta aetate  
cum resumptam sapientiam patrum  
meus est; sapiens et quibuscunque  
non obstantibus. et per denique peccatum  
materiale est.

Rev. Hopkins. vir fortis loquens  
victoriae

Rev. Liley. Zelus domus comedat me  
Frater coadjutor, nihil innovandum  
quod prius non traditum est.





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Et ego, quis scire vel instaurare  
 Collegium fuit: nouit; deus pueri  
 in domo commorant ab oppido  
 autem aeterno pestiferi discipuli quotidiani  
 Tempus enim valde contritum est  
 hic et ibi, susque deque nihil agere  
 ut videtur. Praeses, professor  
 parochus, semi-praefectus ubi  
 spiritualia? Laborum quoque tempore  
 opportunus et determinator. Verba  
 Thoma à Kempis. "bella continuata  
 dulcescit; et qui forsitan omnis est  
 pignitum. Studium minus diligere  
 Deo bus Domini natalibus. tibi  
 pacem quae exsuperat omnem in-  
 tellectum. volumus omnes

Amicus tuus sum, ego - J. Rayton H. C. M.

Opus Collegium S. Vincentii  
 Cape



M.

Maison

Province

Date

Objet

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1902Re<sup>me</sup> Antoni Paul -

Superior Generalis.

Honoratissime Pater.

Scholasticis jam incipientibus  
tibi & per totam peribos Imperiis  
fator candida fore nihil eis  
novissime semper sine ad-  
dendum sine detractandum

1<sup>a</sup> Omnes Surgunt et in loco etc2<sup>a</sup> Lectio: legatur inter conversationem

Martyrologia et Sen plura Sacra,

Acin silentium regnet;

Vacationis decus non perebatur

plerumque quod deo vel his solum  
inter decumbentes inveniebaturAnnus praesente Scip. et Morby<sup>1<sup>am</sup></sup>

habebatur.

3<sup>a</sup> "Pursor" deus officio bene fungitor4<sup>a</sup> Oratoris Mentalis repetitio semel





M.

Maison ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

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Date

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in hebdomada habetur.

5 Thesl. Collatio novae instituta  
Ego et Sac. Joannis. Red Schulz Thesl'ae  
moralis partes magis speciales quo-  
tidie peregrinus

6 Prescriptions tempore Visitationis legere  
non imperatur.

7 Charitas fraternitas eadem quae fuit  
28. Culpa non sunt graves frequen-  
tius tamen verbis. nos omnes!

Officium divinum in choro habere  
non possumus in toto. Quia decet  
A.M. 8.00 - 12.00, P.M. 1.15 - 4.00

Attamen P.M. 1.00 - 1.15 - Vespere et

Coinq. dicuntur. Et sic Recreationis

Et ego et Red Schulz laudes cum

Inatimur aliquando simul dicimus



M.

Maison

Province

Date

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Præcibus tuis docemur vestram  
Commendo ut vos annos  
patientia vestra annos possideamus  
nostros

Ego Servo Tuus

Julianus Layton, S. O. C.  
Layton





M.

Maison

Province

Date

Objet

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., 29<sup>a</sup> Maii 1902Rev<sup>me</sup> A. Hunt C.M. Sup Gen.

Gratia Dni Nostri sit semper carissimum

Honoratissime Pater;

Adest mihi obligatio &amp; protocolum

tibi Honoratissime Pater, Scribendi

de Reg. Observatio observandis deque

Cheritate "legis perfectae" regente etc.

1<sup>o</sup> De surgendo hora solita, oratione

Mentali; nihil decedendum nisi ut

antea dicebam. Per v<sup>a</sup> die nupsse

linguis loquendi non possumus

quin decedamus hora eundem completa

ratio; missa apud Eccl. proclama

et Convantum celebranda.

2<sup>o</sup> Lectis inter prandium caenaeque

non loquor. Silentium regnabat

quousque Scholae loquebantur,

nunc autem est quod aut vel tres

in mensa simul discantibus. Et



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plerumque anore desperare aut in  
 silentio aut in horto vel in de-  
 culationibus in praeceptis commorantes  
 forius loquuntur in voluntate descumbunt  
 est. 3<sup>o</sup> Satis "Bursar" officio deo  
 prosequitur. 4<sup>o</sup> Conferentia St. Vincentii vel  
 Collata Spirituales feria 1<sup>a</sup> habetur, cum  
 in die Dominica seu festa.  
 5<sup>o</sup> Conferentia Theol. non habetur  
 Rio Veruna cum habere volebat sed  
 in paucis in hunc boni apprehendo donec  
 alius Sacerdos advenit.  
 6<sup>o</sup> Dispositiones de praescriptis Vestitibus  
 legendis cum sunt determinatae.  
 7<sup>o</sup> Chorus praeterquam ut aestimo  
 flagrat, graves culpaes externae non  
 apparuit. Et ponit praecipiis personis  
 aetate praecipiis





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non multum peccavimus. D. Schultz  
diximus ad sacerdotium esse pre-  
paratus. Vexatus fui quod prater  
scholasticum semper suffectus loco  
sacerdotium quare clero laboriose  
perfolivi, per conjugium non  
solum in collegio doctum venimus  
domum in Summum, uti dicit, descendimus  
est. Et non habes quoniam despicienda  
volenda, ad praeconducimus. Alibendum  
opera praeconducimus abeunda. Prater  
Red. Hopkins, procuratorem qui fre-  
quentius in praeconducimus est. Atque ex pro-  
missis cum proximo alio sacerdote  
aut infirmis delabunt.

Ego multis (verum) acrisuetudine  
despicienda, non est. in hi fortitudo  
peccata dimissimus poliusque

Communionis timendum est  
 quodcumque meliores fanges  
 cooperbum in alium extremum  
 peragubum alium magis peccaturus  
 sine lenitate aut precioni agenda regula  
 difficile dicitur. Plane vides spiritum  
 autem esse tardiorum. Communionis  
 pietatis opera multoties oblata sunt  
 cum <sup>mult-</sup> ~~ext~~ amicitia requanta superavit  
 et - si Rev. Birnwell aliter dicebat  
 asperabat - autem longanimitates,  
 quae procul dubio (verer sollem) /  
 respectus humanus est - et non veritas  
 requanta et - deo beneplacens,

Iura pro est reverentia

Servus Tuus permauco

Julianus Layton S.S. O.M.